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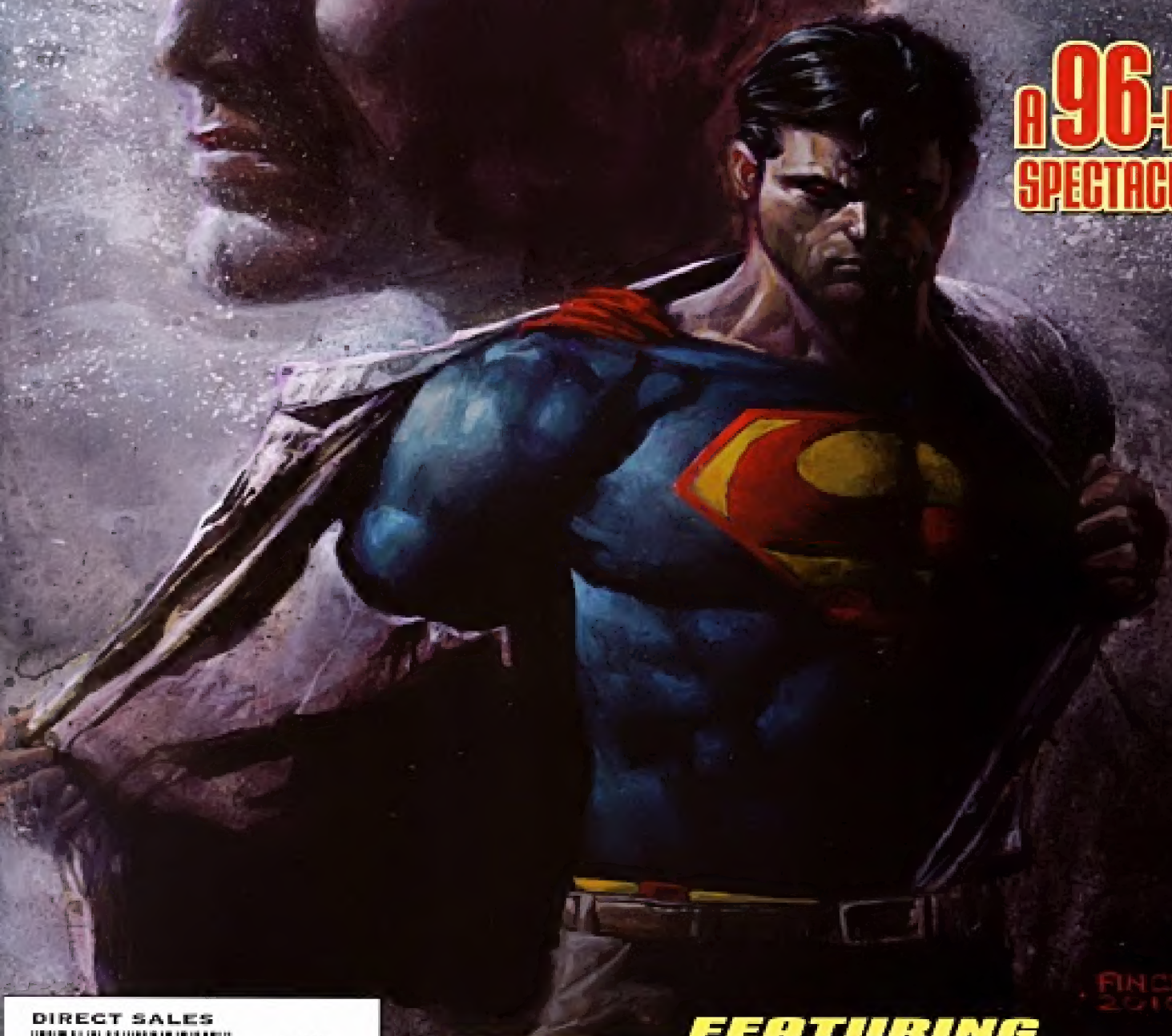
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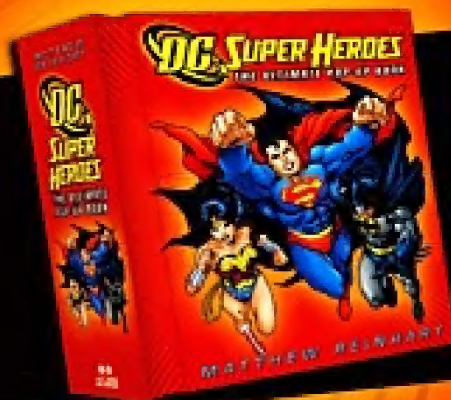
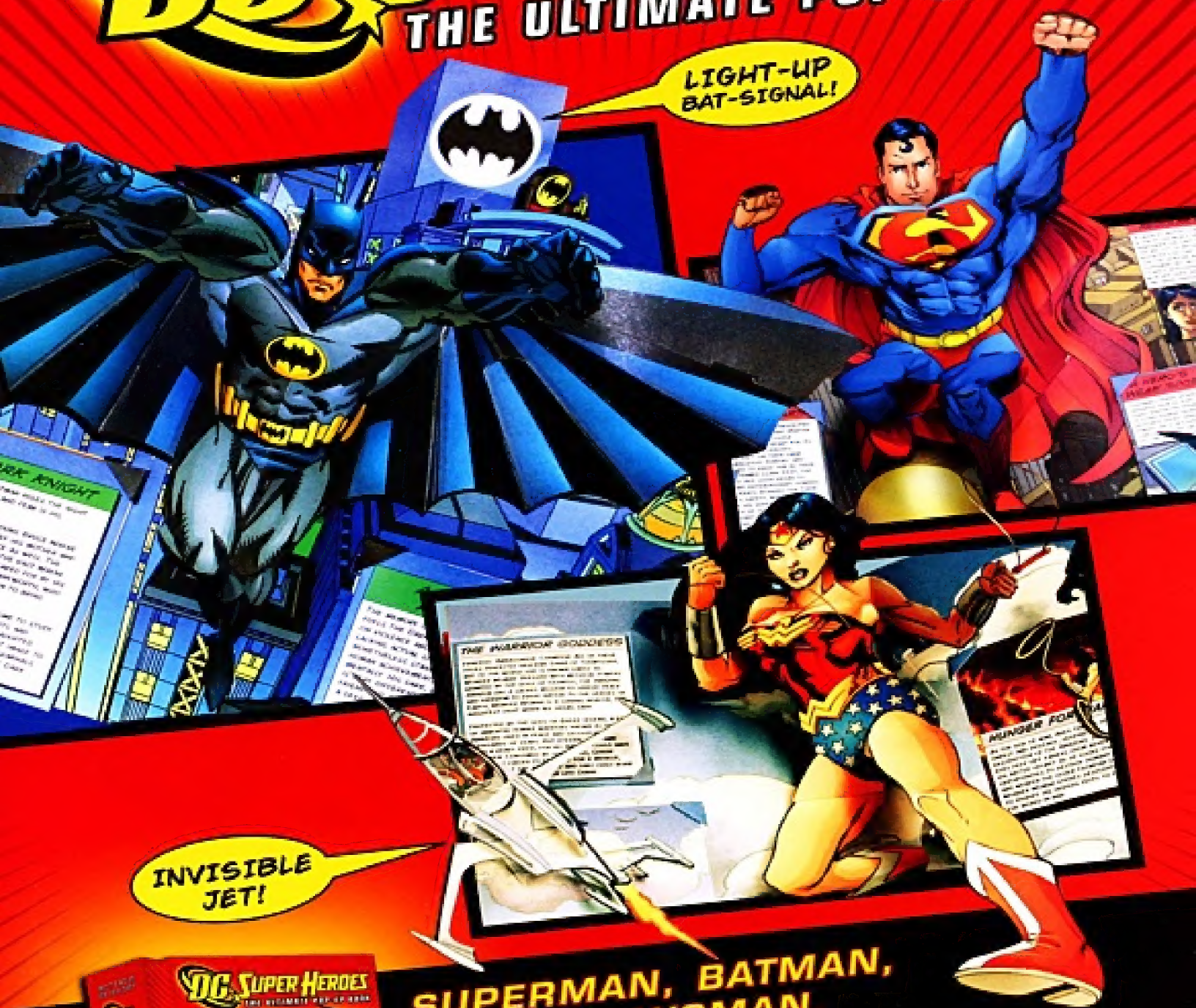
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LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
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WHERE IS HE?!

WHERE'S DOOMSDAY?

HE BEAT STEEL TO WITHIN... WELL...

SUPERMAN, THIS... THE FIRST TIME YOU FOUGHT DOOMSDAY...

THE BLACK RING

FINALE

REIGN OF DOOMSDAY

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PETE WOODS artist BRAD ANDERSON colorist (main sequence)

JESUS MERINO artist BLOND colorist (reign sequence)

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WIL MOSS associate editor • MATT IDELSON editor

very special thanks to NEIL GAIMAN

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

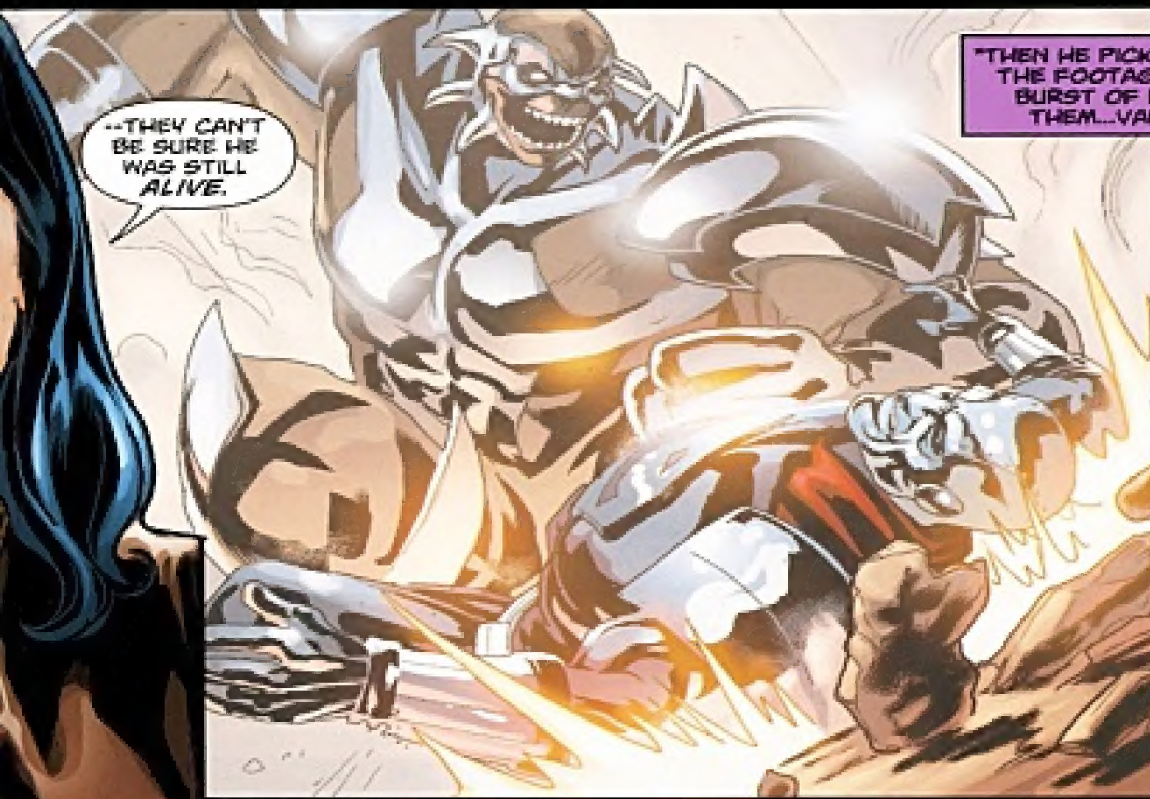
DEATH created by NEIL GAIMAN & MIKE DRINGENBERG

BORN IN SMALLVILLE BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL TOWN AMERICA AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS. THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD EMBRAZE HUMANITY'S CRIMINAL... AND FUTURE WILDS.

LEX LUTHOR

ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM THE DOOMED PLANET KRYPTON, THE BABY KAL-EL WAS FOUND AND RAISED BY JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT IN SMALLVILLE, KANSAS. NOW AN ADULT, CLARK KENT FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE & THE AMERICAN WAY AS...

SUPERMAN



--THEY CAN'T
BE SURE HE
WAS STILL
ALIVE.

"THEN HE PICKED STEEL UP.
THE FOOTAGE SHOWS A
BURST OF LIGHT AND
THEM...VANISHING."



"THEN
THERE'LL BE
SOMETHING
I CAN
FOLLOW."



DON'T WORRY...
MS. LANE.
EVERYBODY--



--I'M
BACK.

AND I WILL
WIN THIS.



GO GET HIM,
SUPERMAN!



"GO GET HIM?!
SERIOUSLY, FRANK?
FIRST TIME THOSE TWO
WENT AT IT, DOOMSDAY
KILLED HIM."

"THIS IS
SUPERMAN,
BILL--



--HE KNOWS
WHAT HE'S
FACING NOW.

"HE'LL GET
HIM."

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN,
AMONG THE DEBRIS THAT WAS ONCE
NEW KRYPTON, THERE FLOATS AN
INTANGIBLE, INVISIBLE, ABANDONED
ALIEN SPACE STATION.

HERE, DOOMSDAY
BROUGHT HIS FIVE
CAPTIVES.*

*AS READERS OF (DEEP INTAKE OF BREATH) ICONS: STEEL #1,
OUTSIDERS #37, JLA #55, SUPERMAN/BATMAN ANNUAL #5
AND SUPERBOY #6 ALREADY KNOW. --Winded Matt

INSIDE...

DOOMSDAY!



YEAH, WE KNOW!
HOW CLOSE IS HE
BEHIND YOU?

HE GOT
YOU GUYS, TOO?!
HOW LONG WAS
I UNCONSCIOUS?

I...THINK
I LOST HIM. THESE
CORRIDORS, THEY
SEEM TO--

NOT "SEEM."
THEY LITERALLY GO
ON FOREVER.

MY SENSORS...
THE INTERIOR OF
WHATEVER THIS PLACE IS...
IT'S UNBOUNDED.

EVERY CORRIDOR
TURNS BACK ON
ITSELF. THERE ISN'T A
DOOR ANYWHERE.

MICE CONFINED WITH A
CAT. IF IT TAKES DECADES,
HE WILL, EVENTUALLY,
KILL US.

THOSE OF YOU
WHO REQUIRE FOOD
AND WATER WILL GO
MUCH SOONER.

THE
FINALITY
OF IT IS...
APPEALING.

DOOMSDAY
ATTACKED US
INDIVIDUALLY, BROUGHT
US ALL HERE
UNCONSCIOUS.

IT'S THE
PERFECT
CASE.

YEAH? THEN HOW
ABOUT YOU GO FIND HIM
AND VOLUNTEER?

I INTEND TO.
AND TO BRING YOU
ALL THAT JOY OF
FINALITY AS WELL.

WHY WERE
YOU PUT IN
HERE WITH US,
ANYWAY?

I HAVE
A THEORY
ABOUT
THAT--





—SUPERMAN'S
MEANT TO BE
TRAPPED HERE,
TOO!

I THINK
DOOMSDAY
BROUGHT US
HERE—



"--TO KEEP US FROM
INTERFERING WITH SOME
LARGER PLAN!"

I HAVE
ACHIEVED
ENORMOUS
POWER!

MY REACH
EXTENDS ACROSS
THE UNIVERSE!

BUT FIRST
THINGS FIRST,
LEX--

--NO GRAND
DISPLAYS.
WISDOM, JUSTICE,
RESPONSIBILITY.

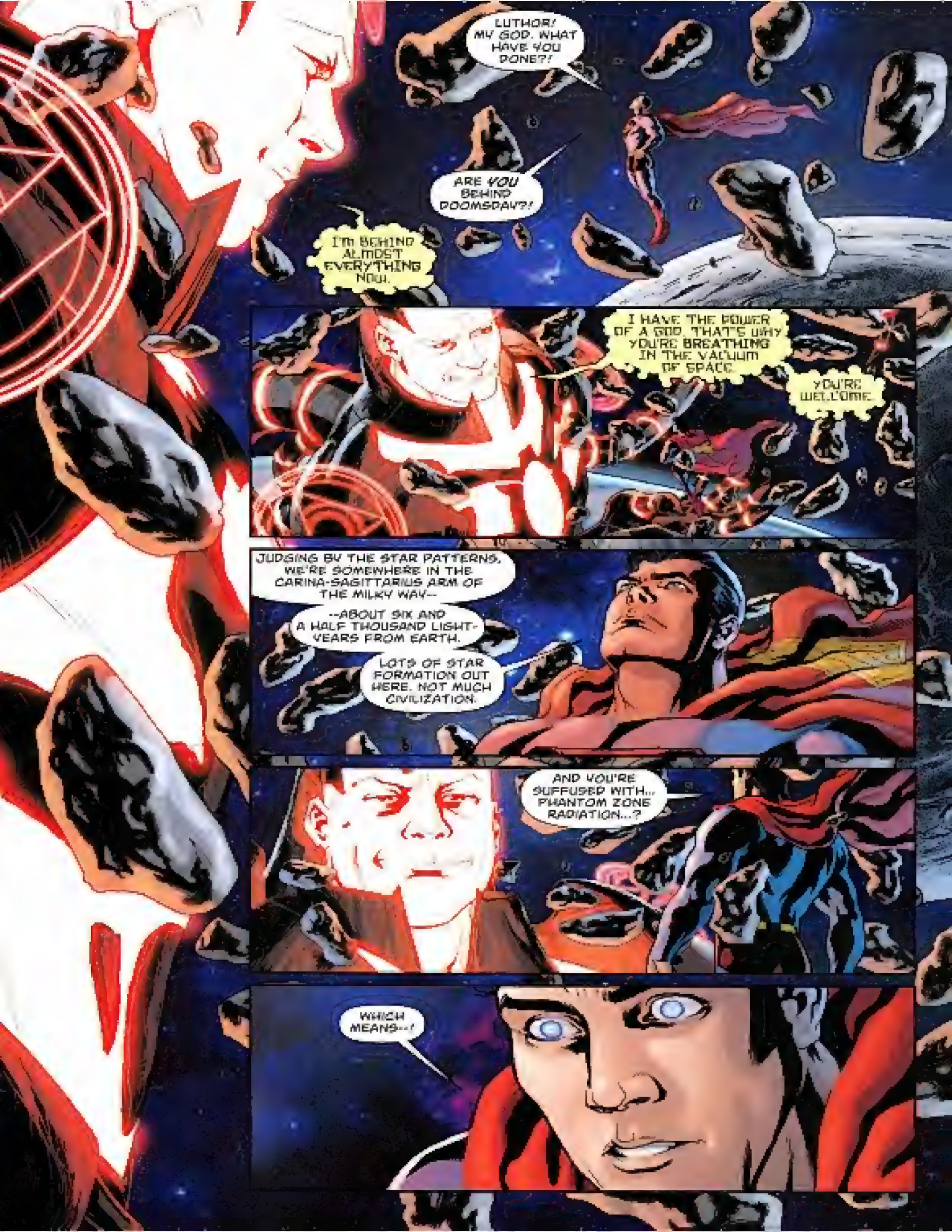
DO WHAT'S
RIGHT FOR
EARTH.

SO, WHERE
IS HE?

OH, HE'S
JUST ABOUT
TO JOIN HIS
DISCIPLES IN
THEIR TRAP. WELL,
NO NEED FOR
THAT NOW...

IT'S TIME
TO COMPLETE
MY LIFE'S
WORK--





LUTHOR!
MY GOD, WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

ARE YOU
BEHIND
DOOMSDAY?!

I'M BEHIND
ALMOST
EVERYTHING
NOW.

I HAVE THE POWER
OF A GOD. THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE BREATHING
IN THE VACUUM
OF SPACE.

YOU'RE
WELCOME.


JUDGING BY THE STAR PATTERNS,
WE'RE SOMEWHERE IN THE
CARINA-SAGITTARIUS ARM OF
THE MILKY WAY--

--ABOUT SIX AND
A HALF THOUSAND LIGHT-
YEARS FROM EARTH.


LOTS OF STAR
FORMATION OUT
HERE. NOT MUCH
CIVILIZATION.

AND YOU'RE
SUFFUSED WITH...
PHANTOM ZONE
RADIATION...?

WHICH
MEANS...!




"--THERE! A DOORWAY TO
THE PHANTOM ZONE!"



WHAT?
OH, I SENSE YOU
HAVE SOMEONE
YOU CARE ABOUT
TRAPPED IN
THERE. BUT--




--NO!



YOU HAVE
BUSINESS--




--WITH
YOUR GOD!



HOW DID YOU GET
THIS POWER?
WHAT IS IT?

I'VE MERGED FORMS
WITH... WELL, IT WAS
ONCE A CHILD.
UTTERLY ALIEN
LIKE YOU.




"IT EVOLVED IN THE
PHANTOM ZONE. THE
ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND.

"IT SENSED EMPATHICALLY. IT
FOUND THAT ITS UNIVERSE WAS
BEING FILLED BY THE CRIMINALS
YOUR PEOPLE EXILED THERE.

"THEIR EVERY THOUGHT
HURT IT. AND SO IT
FUELED ON THEIR
PHANTOM FORMS.

"BUT THEY FLED
AND HID, AND MORE
KEPT COMING.

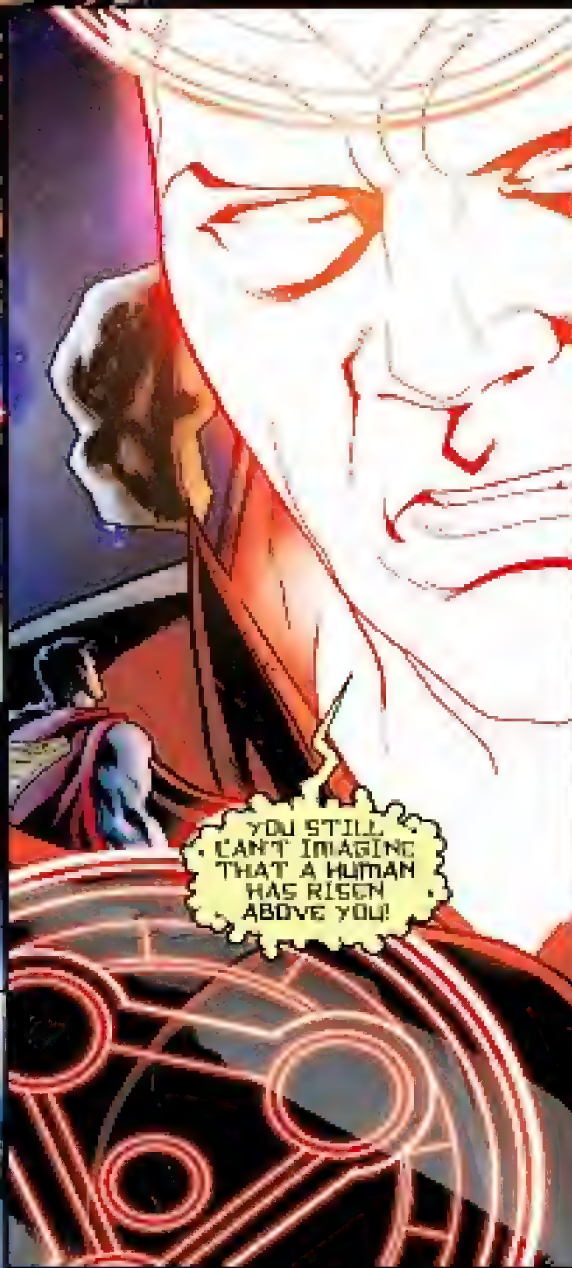
"SO IT MADE THE BLACK RING
OF ENERGY SPHERES, AND
USED THEM TO ENTER OUR
UNIVERSE, INTENDING TO
DESTROY ALL NEGATIVE
EMOTION AT THE SOURCE."




I SAVED THE
UNIVERSE FROM
THAT FATE. I TOOK
THE ZUNE CHILD'S
ENORMOUS POWERS
AS MY OWN.

AND THE FIRST
THING
YOU DID WAS
COME AFTER
ME?!

AND THE FIRST
THING YOU DID IN
RESPONSE WAS TO
IGNORE ME.



YOU STILL
CAN'T IMAGINE
THAT A HUMAN
HAS RISEN
ABOVE YOU!



EVEN AT THE
MOMENT OF MY GREATEST
TRIUMPH, YOU STILL SAW
ME AS SOMEONE SMALL,
SOMEONE YOU COULD TURN
AWAY FROM!

YOU DO NOT
TURN YOUR
BACK--




--ON ME!




BUT NO.

JUSTICE
SHOULD BE
CALM.

"JUSTICE"?!
LUTHOR--!




I DON'T WANT A
DEBATE. GRAVITY
CAN CLOSE YOUR
MOUTH AND SPACE
CAN HOLD YOU
THERE.



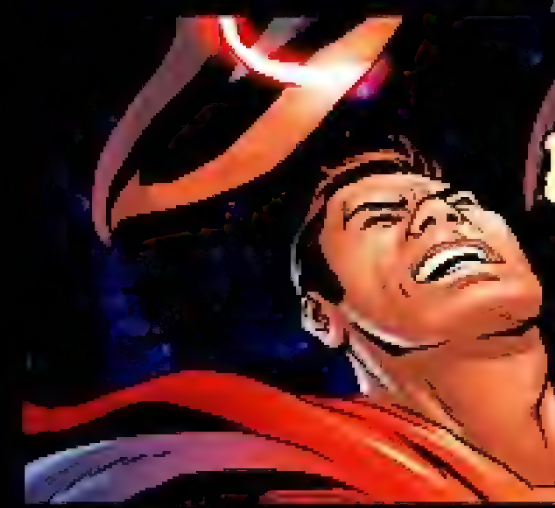
YOU HAVE HELD
BACK THE HUMAN
RACE FOR SO LONG.
THE ULTIMATE
PATERNAL SAFETY
NET.

A HYPOCRITE
WHO TOLD AN
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
SPECIES TO ASPIRE
TO HIS PHYSICAL
TYPE.



YOU HAVE
FORCED ME TO
DO SO MANY
TERRIBLE
THINGS.

BUT IT WAS
ALL FOR THIS
MOMENT--!



--WHEN
HUMANITY
WILL HAVE ITS
REVENGE!

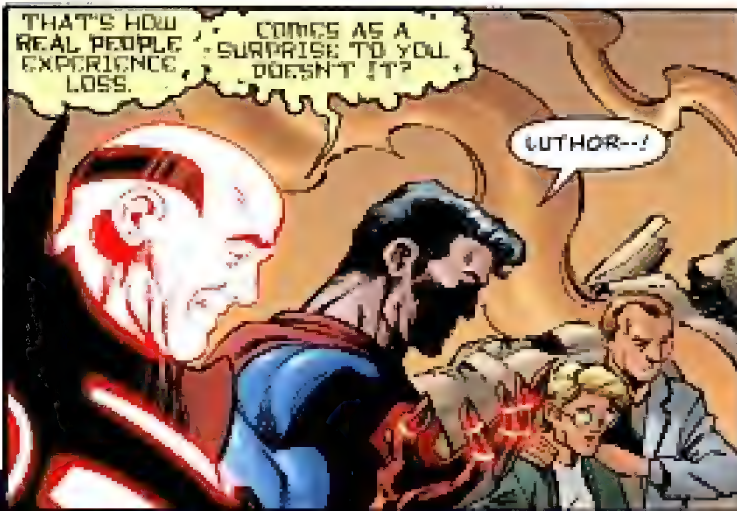
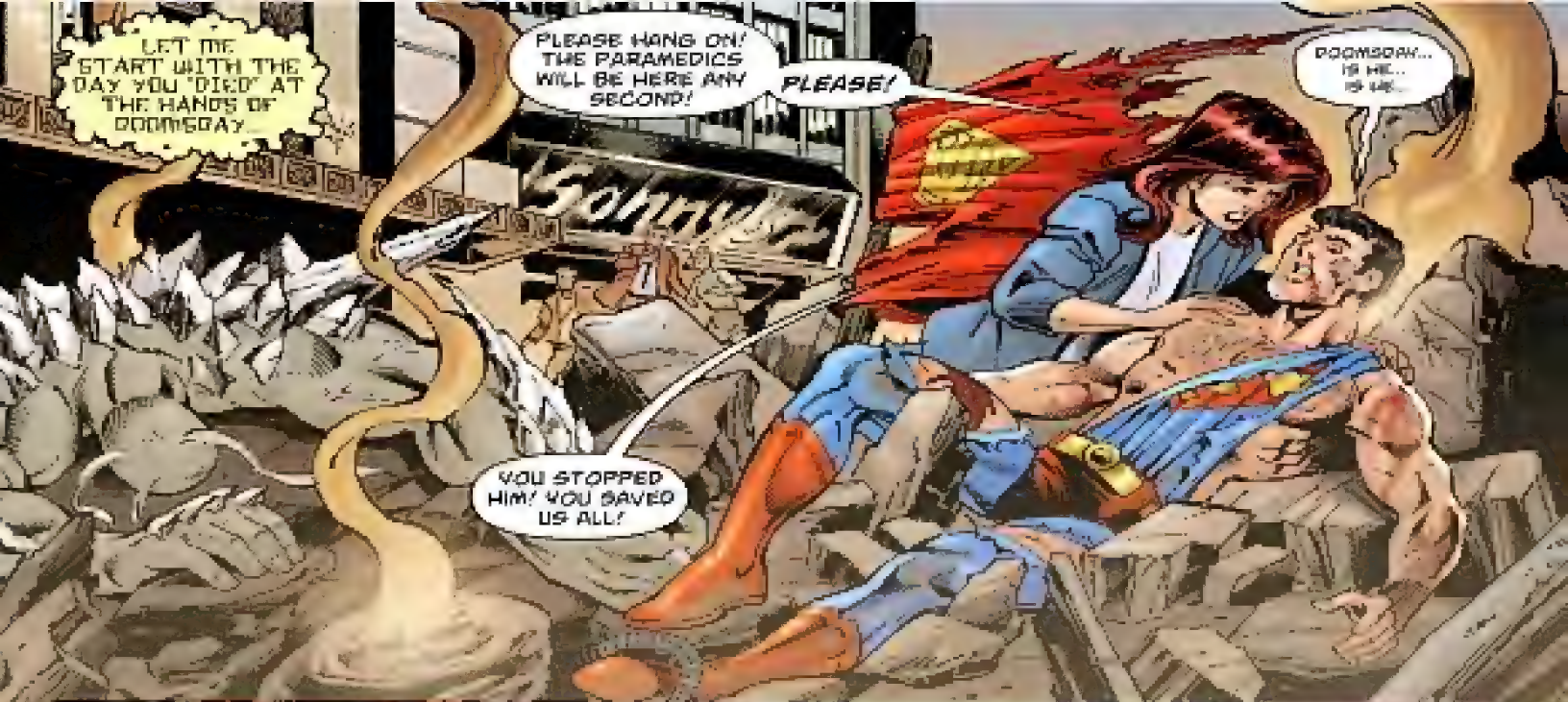
YOU SHED THE
GODDAMNY TEAR
WHEN YOU THINK
IT'S APPROPRIATE
FOR A HERO TO
DO SO.

YOU SMILE
LIKE US.
FROWN LIKE
US--

--BUT LET ME
SHOW YOU NOW
WHAT HUMAN
BEINGS HAVE TO
GO THROUGH
EVERY DAY.

I'LL SHOW
YOU HUMAN
PAIN!

YARRGGHHH!



--THE
DESTRUCTION OF
KRYPTON. THESE ARE YOUR
ALIEN PARENTS. I'M SURE
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT
THEY'RE SAYING.

HOW COULD OF THEM
HOW STRANGE TO SEND
THEIR SPORE INTO
SPACE.

THIS IS WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK YOU SYMPATHIZE
WITH REFUGEES AND DISASTER
VICTIMS ON EARTH. WHY YOU
KEEP PURSUING THEIR SMALL
NEEDS RATHER THAN
CHANGING THE WORLD.

BUT REALLY,
THIS IS QUITE
DIFFERENT.

(NOT NO!
THEY LET IT COME
TO THIS! WE COULD
ALL HAVE ESCAPED!
ALL OF US!)

(MY SON!
MY SON!)

(WE'VE
ONLY GOT
SECONDS.)

(WE'RE
GOING TO DIE.
HE DOESN'T
HAVE TO.)

LUTHOR,
YOU DON'T
KNOW--!

LUTHOR!

“AH YES, HERE’S WHERE THE CLOSEST THING YOU EVER HAD TO A SON FOOLISHLY FOLLOWED YOUR EXAMPLE AND SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE EARTH.”

“YOU DON’T KNOW THE *OTHER* HORROR THAT LURKS WITHIN THE *SHARDS* OF THE PHANTOM ZONE, KAL-EL!”

“I WISH I’D HEARD THAT AT THE TIME. IT WOULD HAVE PLUED ME IN TO THIS BUSINESS SOONER.”

“BUT I WAS TOO BUSY SAVING THE WORLD.”

“DON’T... DON’T MAKE ME EXPERIENCE THIS AGAIN, LUTHOR--”

“AH--!”

“--I WONDERED WHEN THE HUMAN EMOTION WE EXPERIENCE EVERY DAY WOULD START TO AFFECT YOU.”

“I CAN KEEP THIS UP FOREVER. I WONDER WHEN YOU’LL BREAK?”

“THERE GOES YOUR LITTLE REFUGEE.”

“UP, UP AND AWAY!”

“CHRIS!”

“CHRIS!”

“CHRIS.”

AND THERE
GOES NEW
KRYPTON.

ALL THOSE
ALIENS TRYING
AND FAILING TO
INTERACT WITH
PEOPLE.

AND IT
ALL ENDS IN
DISASTER.

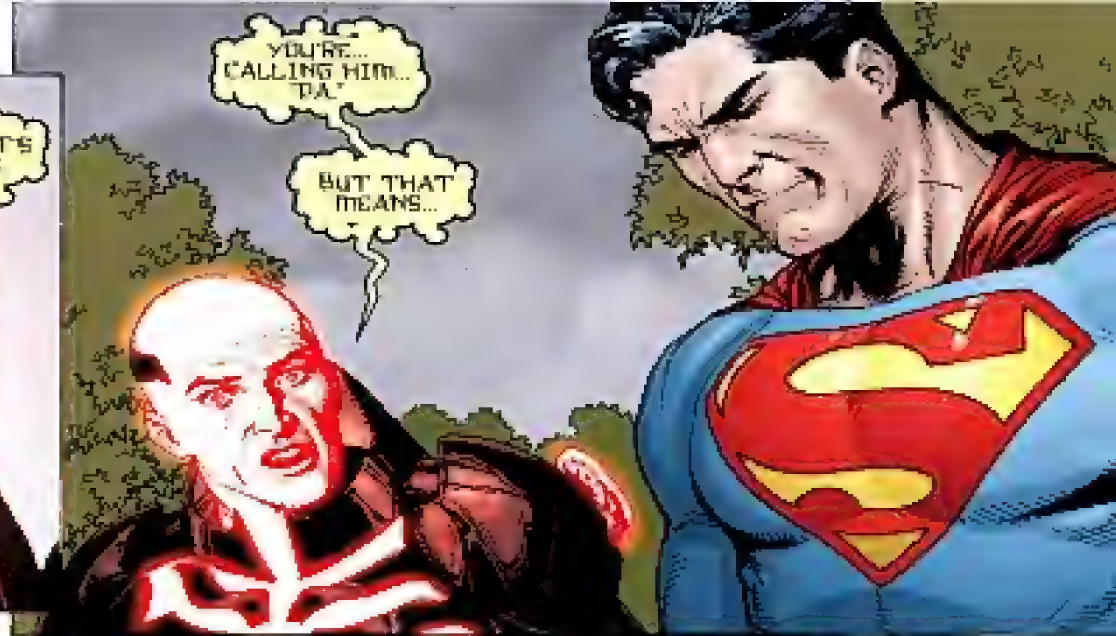
AGAIN.

ARE YOU
FEELING THIS
NOW?

OR ARE
YOU STILL NOBLY
PRETENDING?









"SIMILAR"?!
YOU'VE BEEN
MOCKING ME, RIGHT
IN FRONT OF MY
FACE. ALL THESE
YEARS, AND YOU
SAY--?!

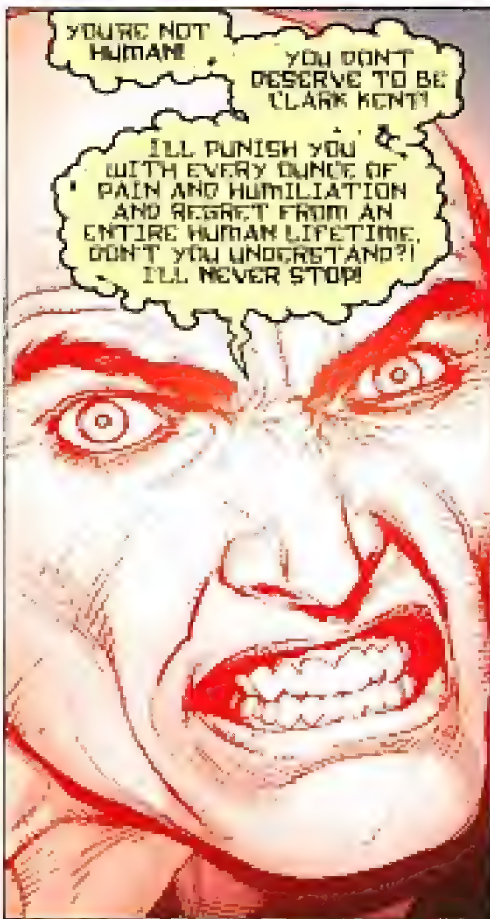


I NOW HAVE THE
POWER TO SAVE HIM.
DO YOU REALIZE THAT?
I COULD GO FURTHER
BACK IN TIME!

BUT I'M
NOT GOING
TO

I WAS HAPPY
TO BE RID OF
WHAT I HAD FOR
A FATHER!

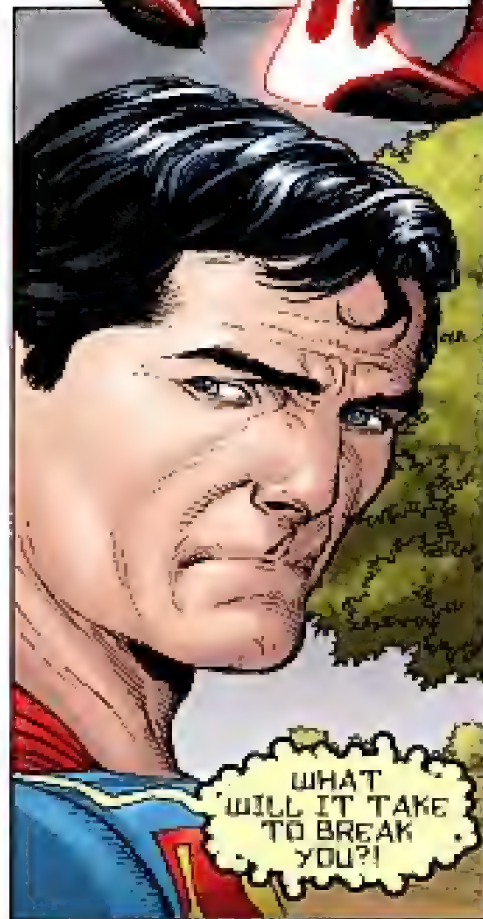
BUT YOU
YOU GOT
THEM!



YOU'RE NOT
HUMAN!

YOU DON'T
DESERVE TO BE
CLARK KENT!

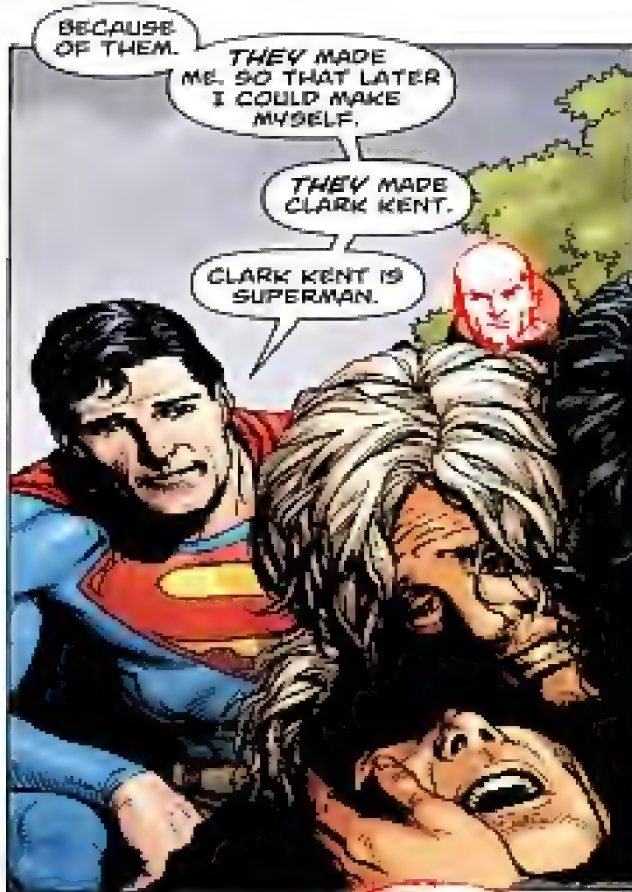
I'LL PUNISH YOU
WITH EVERY DUNCE OF
PAIN AND HUMILIATION
AND REGRET FROM AN
ENTIRE HUMAN LIFETIME.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
I'LL NEVER STOP!




WHAT
WILL IT TAKE
TO BREAK
YOU?!



WHY
WOULDN'T YOU
BREAK?!






I... MEANT TO
DISINTEGRATE
HIM!

WHY
ISN'T HE
DEAD?!


LUTHOR!



LOIS, HOW
CAN YOU
BE--?!

OH, IT'S YOU,
MISTER MIND, TALKING
THROUGH HER.

YES,
IT'S ME--!

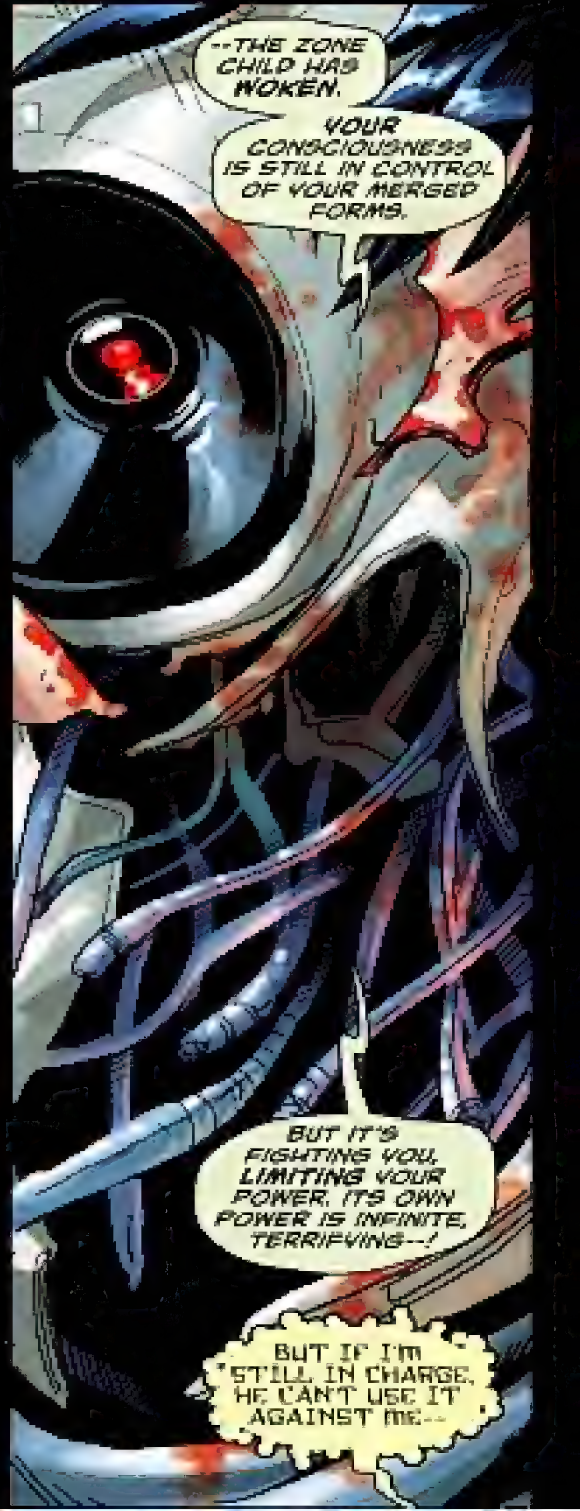


--OR RATHER, A
PROJECTION OF MY
CONSCIOUSNESS,
USING--

--WELL,
NEVER MIND
THAT NOW.

I'D LIKE TO
HAVE FLED, LUTHOR,
BUT I CAN'T. I'M
STILL MENTALLY
CONNECTED TO THIS
THING YOU'VE
BECOME.

SO FOR
BOTH OUR
SAKES, I HAVE
TO WARN
YOU--!



--THE ZONE
CHILD HAS
WOKEN.

YOUR
CONSCIOUSNESS
IS STILL IN CONTROL
OF YOUR MERGED
FORMS.

BUT IT'S
FIGHTING YOU,
LIMITING YOUR
POWER. ITS OWN
POWER IS INFINITE,
TERRIFYING--!

BUT IF I'M
STILL IN CHARGE,
HE CAN'T USE IT
AGAINST ME--



WE'VE LEFT
DOOMSDAY AND
THE CYBORG
BEHIND.

DOOMSDAY
WAS SOMEHOW
COUNTERING MY
HEAT VISION BACK
THERE--

--BUT HE
DIDN'T SEEM
TUNED IN TO
THE REST OF
YOUR POWERS
ANYMORE.

HE APPEARS
ABLE TO CHANGE
HIS POWER SET FOR
EACH OF US.

PERHAPS...
PERHAPS HE CAN
ONLY ANTICIPATE
ONE OF US AT
A TIME?

NOW
WOULDN'T
THAT BE--?

--GRAHHH!

NOW THOSE ARE
LIKE MY ENERGY
BLASTS!

HOW IS
HE DOING
THIS?!

AND
GUYS--!

--LOOK
WHO'S
BACK!









OH

INFINITE

POWER

IS

MINE.

AND IN AN INSTANT, THE
UNIVERSE CHANGES.

ON AN AUSTRIAN
SKI SLOPE...

IT'S HAPPENING!
LIKE I SAW IT WOULD
WHEN I LOOKED AT
LEX'S FUTURE!

A WAVE OF BLISS
RUSHING INSTANTLY
ACROSS THE
UNIVERSE!

FOR NOW,
SURE. ENTROPY HAS
STOPPED.

IT'S WHAT THE
ZONE CHILD WANTED.
THAT'S IT FOR
EVERYTHING
NEGATIVE!

I THOUGHT
I FELT HAPPY.
AM I GOING TO
BE OKAY?

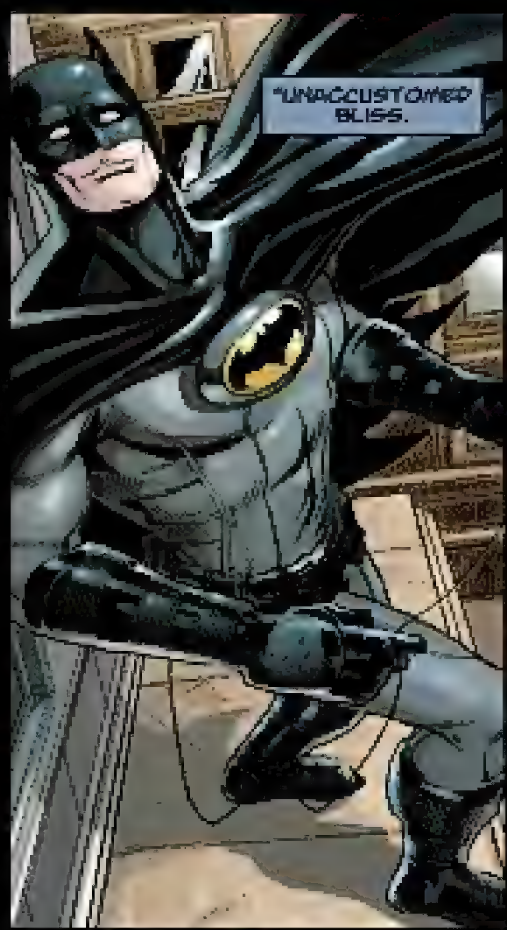
SORRY?
WHAT IS?

AND IN HIS CASTLE HEADQUARTERS,
THE IMMORTAL VANDAL SAVAGE...

ABSOLUTE
HAPPINESS!
FOR
ME AND
EVERYONE
ELSE!



THE PROPHECY
HAS COME TRUE!



"UNACCUSTOMED
BLISS."



"EVERYDAY
BLISS."



IS
MINE.





I CAN DO ANYTHING.

YES, LEX--



--I CAN FEEL THE UNIVERSAL HAPPINESS YOU'RE RADIATING, WITH WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME NOW, WITH HOW YOU ARE NOW--



--THINGS HAVE TO CHANGE, DON'T THEY?

YOU CAN MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY NOW, FOREVER!

USE THAT FEELING OF BLISS TO SORT OUT THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF THE UNIVERSE.

BE THE HERO YOU WERE ALWAYS CAPABLE OF BEING!

LISTEN TO HIM, LUTHOR--!



SO... I CAN DO
ANYTHING, BE
ANYTHING, ACHIEVE
ANYTHING...

BUT ONLY IF I LEAVE
MY GREATEST ENEMY...
ALIVE, AND... BLISSFULLY
HAPPY?

RIGHT,
THAT'S IT IN A
NUTSHELL.

LEX, YOU CAN
FEEL IT!

FEEL ALL
THE GOOD
YOU CAN
DO!

IF YOU
CAN JUST LET
GO OF THE
PAST!

MY...GREATEST ENEMY, WHO'S
BEEN MAKING A FOOL OF ME
ALL THESE YEARS.

WHO'S EVEN NOW
LECTURING ME ON WHAT
I SHOULD DO--

I'M SORRY,
SORRY FOR
EVERYTHING!
FOR ANYTHING!
THIS IS TOO
IMPORTANT
TO--

QUIET!



No!!!

AND STILL
HE'S NOT DEAD!
STILL, IT'S NOT
OVER!



WHY?!



BECAUSE INFINITE
POWER FLED YOU
THE INSTANT YOU
MADE YOUR
DECISION!

AND I TELL
YOU WHAT--



--I'M FREE
TO GO NOW.
SO I'LL LEAVE
YOU TO
YOUR--

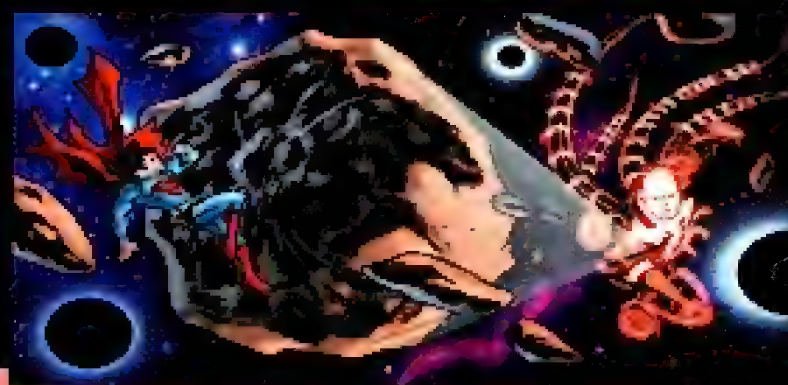
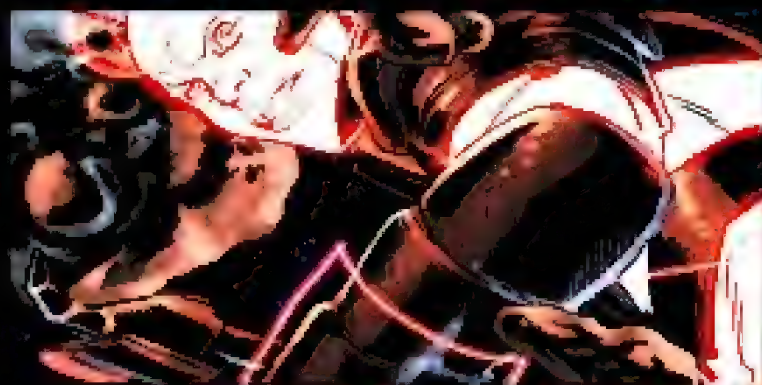
--TRAGEDY?
LEX?

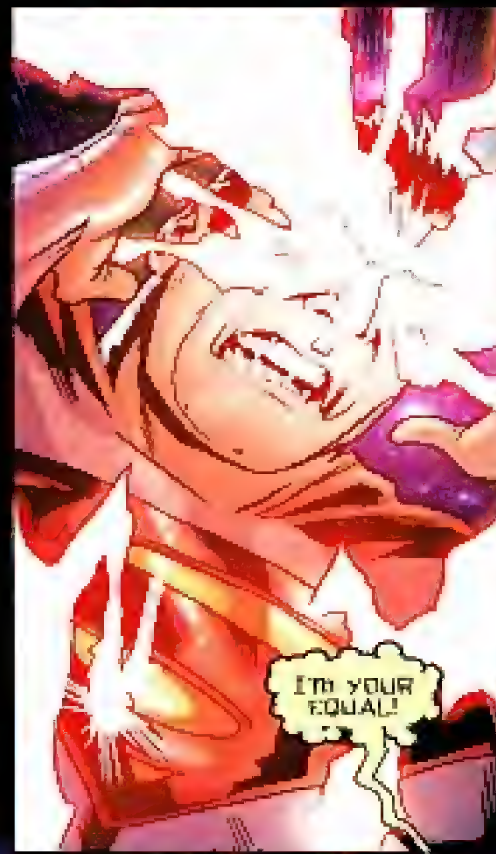
WHAT'S--?



GET AWAY
FROM ME!







EVEN IF I AM
GOING TO LOSE
THIS POWER--

--IF I CAN
USE THE
LAST OF IT
TO DESTROY
YOU--

--IT WILL ALL HAVE
BEEN WORTH IT!

AHH!

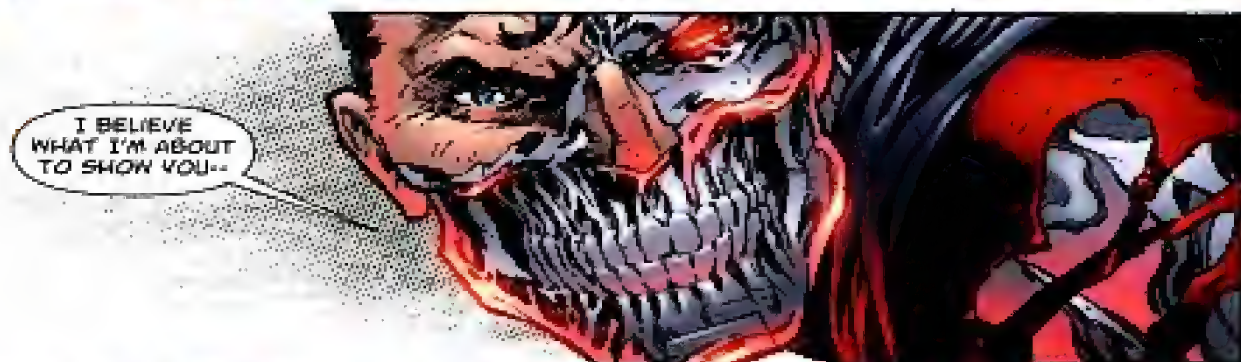
WHEN WILL
YOU GET IT,
LUTHOR?

THIS APPROACH OF
YOURS, THE WAY YOU DO
THINGS, IT'S NEVER WORK.
IT'S EMPTINESS MAKES EVEN
YOUR SUCCESSES
WORTHLESS.

YOU HAD THE
CHANCE TO BE KIND.
TO HEAL YOURSELF
ALONG WITH THE
UNIVERSE. TO FIND
YOUR OWN MA AND
PA KENT.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T HAVE THE
COURAGE TO
CHANGE.

GAHHHHH!







WHAT...
HAVE YOU
DONE?



I HAD...I CAN'T
REMEMBER!

CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT I
HAD.

MUSTN'T
LET MYSELF
REMEMBER



DID I...LOSE
SOMETHING?

WHERE
AM I?

PLEASE...
WHO AM
I?

"HAHAHAHAHA!"



IN ARKHAM
ASYLUM...

OH, THAT
IS MY IDEA OF
BLISS!

I TOLD HIM
TO MAKE THE
RIGHT CHOICE--



--AND HE
DID!

LUTHOR PLAYED
THE GREATEST
EVER SICK JOKE ON
THE UNIVERSE--

--AND ON
HIMSELF!

"HAHAHAHAHA!"





THE RUINS OF
MY WORLD?!

HE MUST
HAVE MEANT THE
DEBRIS OF NEW
KRYPTON.



WHOEVER YOU ARE,
I'M HEADING FOR
EARTH'S SOLAR
SYSTEM.
I'M
TAKING LUTHOR'S
SPACECRAFT,
BEFORE THIS AIR
RUNS OUT.

DO YOU
WANT--?

NO.



LEX JUST...
DISCARDED ME.
DESPITE
EVERYTHING.

BUT JEEZ,
I'M FINALLY
FREE.



I WANT TO
MAKE MY OWN
WAY. WITH MY
OWN FACE.



AND I KNOW
WHERE I WANT
TO BE.

AND, UNSEEN
BY ANYONE--

--A REMNANT OF
SOMETHING, IN A
UNIVERSE NEW TO
IT, ALSO SEEKS
ITS WAY.



A REMNANT THAT MAY
ONE DAY GROW...

LATER, IN EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM,
ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN--

LUTHOR
MEANT FOR
ME TO FIND
THIS.

A TRAP FOR MY FRIENDS.
AND HE DIDN'T FREE THEM
EVEN WHEN HE HAD INFINITE
POWER. EVEN WHEN HE
THOUGHT HE'D WON.

THERE!

THOSE ARE STEEL'S
NANOBYTES, THE ONES HE
WAS WORKING ON TO COUNTER
DOOMSDAY. HE MUST HAVE
DELIBERATELY TAGGED
DOOMSDAY WITH THEM
DURING THEIR FIGHT!

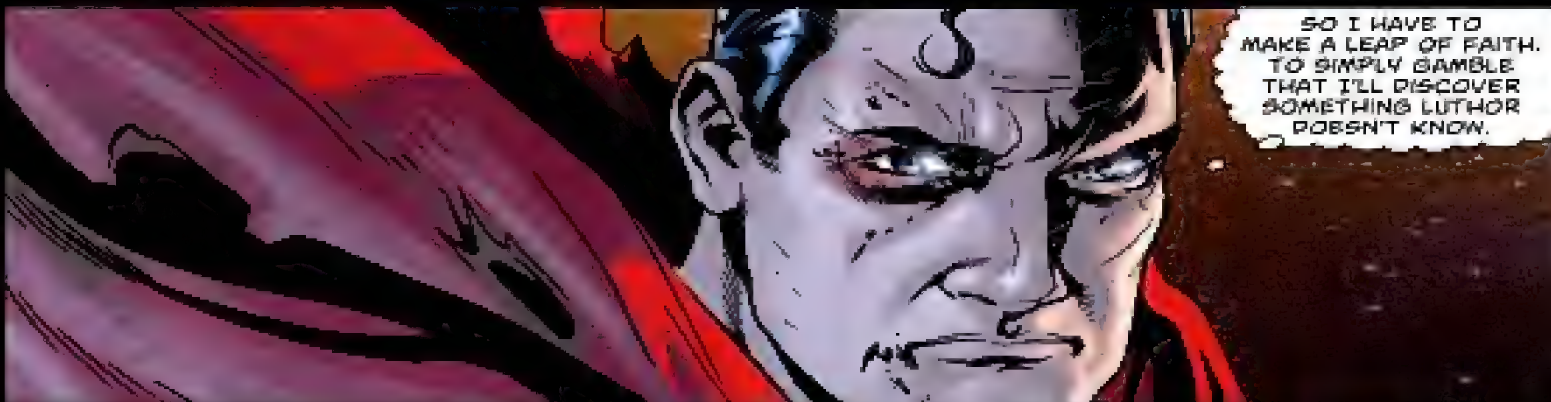
THEY
SHOULD
LEAD ME
TO --

--Hmhm!
I'VE JUST
PASSED THROUGH
A CLOAKING
ZONE...



THERE'S AN
EVENT HORIZON
INSIDE. A PRIVATE
UNIVERSE.

LUTHOR WAS
BETTING ON ME
FOLLOWING THEM,
TRAPPING MYSELF
IN THERE.



SO I HAVE TO
MAKE A LEAP OF FAITH.
TO SIMPLY GAMBLE
THAT I'LL DISCOVER
SOMETHING LUTHOR
DOESN'T KNOW.



I'LL TAKE
THAT BET!





DOOMSDAY AGAIN!

BUT WE WERE FIGHTING HIM JUST TWO MINUTES AGO! HOW DID HE GET LIKE THIS?



ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

EACH OF
YOU THOUGHT
YOU'D BEEN
AMBUSHED BY
DOOMSDAY--

--BECAUSE HE WAS
THE ONE BIG THREAT
YOU WERE ALL
TERRIFIED OF.

BUT IT'S SO
MUCH BETTER
THAN THAT!



BETTER?!
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

THIS IS
LUTHOR'S TRAP, HE
MUST HAVE HAD ACCESS TO
DOOMSDAY'S BODY WHEN
HE WAS WORKING FOR
GENERAL LANE.

THEN
THAT'S
NOT ALL
HE DID.



ROARRGGGGHHHHHHH

HE SEEMS
TO HAVE PUT IN
PLACE...





IT'S 2011 AND SUPERMAN IS STILL REAL.
THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT. WE TRUST WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

A CELEBRATION
OF 900
ISSUES OF

ACTION COMICS

"Life Support" page 53
Damon Lindelof Writer
Ryan Sook Artist
John J. Hill Letterer

"Autobiography" page 63
Paul Dini Writer
RB Silva Penciller
Rob Lean Inker
Java Tartaglia Colorist
John J. Hill Letterer

"Friday Night in the 21st Century" page 66
Geoff Johns Writer
Gary Frank Artist
Brad Anderson Colorist
John J. Hill Letterer

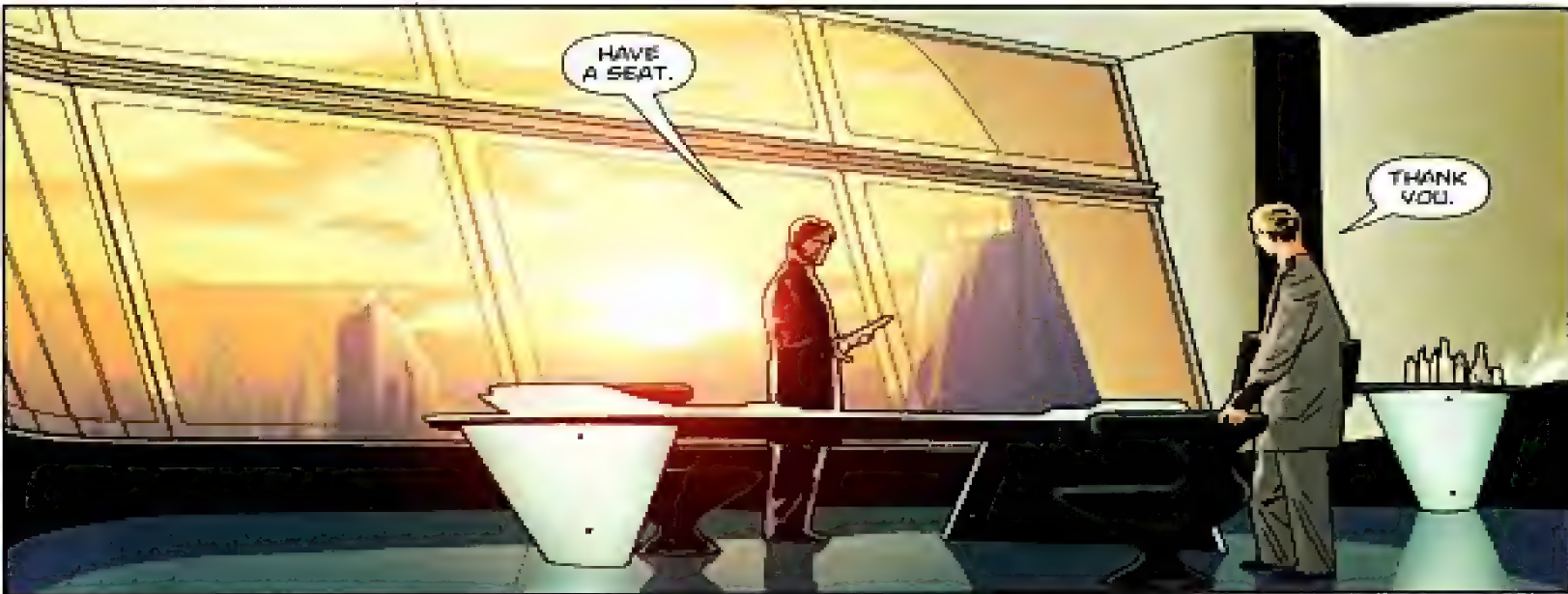
"The Incident" page 70
David S. Goyer Writer
Miguel Sepulveda Artist
Paul Mounts Colorist
Rob Leigh Letterer

"Only Human" page 79
Richard Donner & Derek Hoffman Writers
Matt Camp Artist

"The Evolution of the Man of Tomorrow" page 94
Brian Stelfreeze Artist

Matt Idelson & Wil Moss Editors
Superman created by Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster
Patrick Brosseau Design

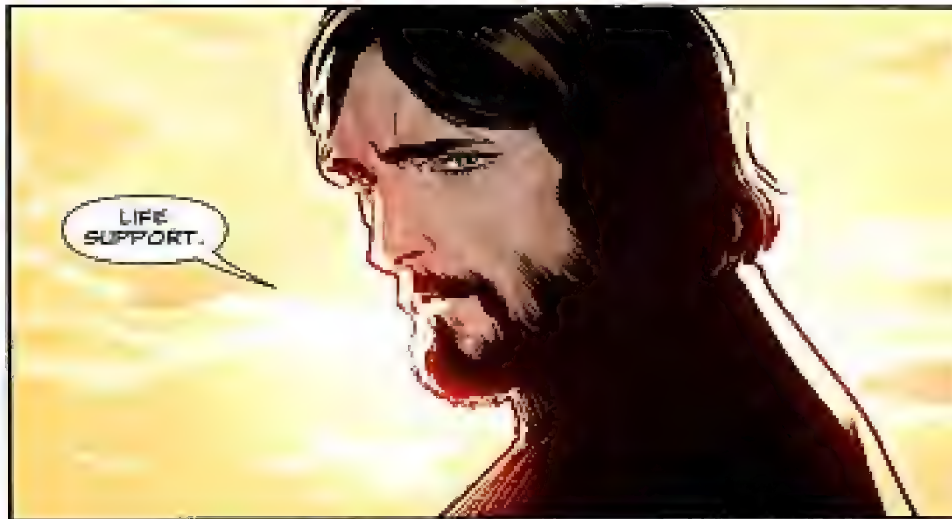


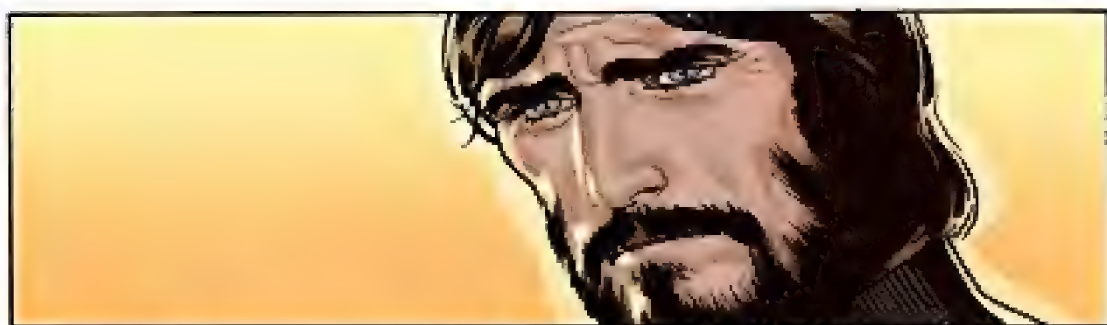


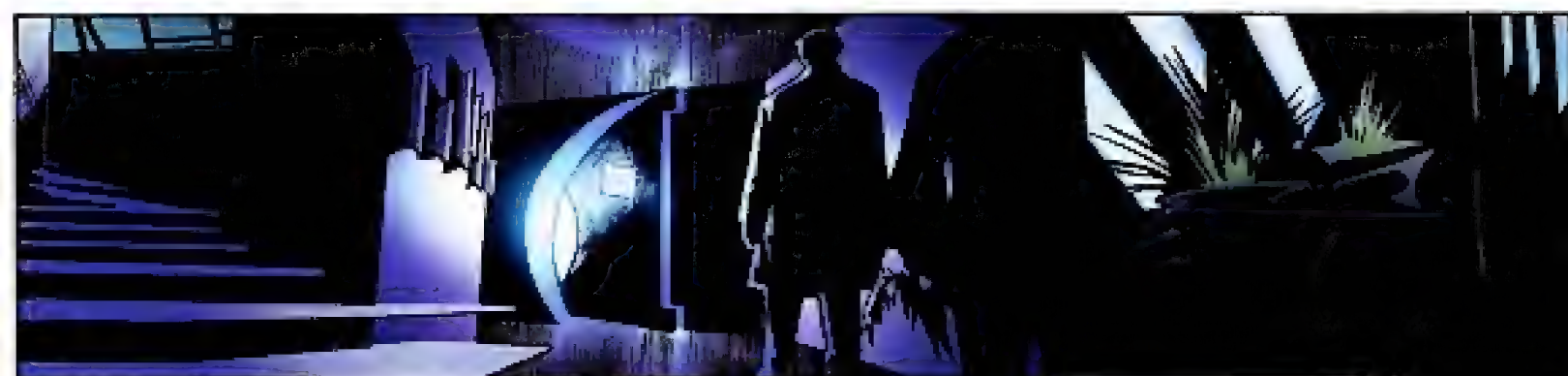
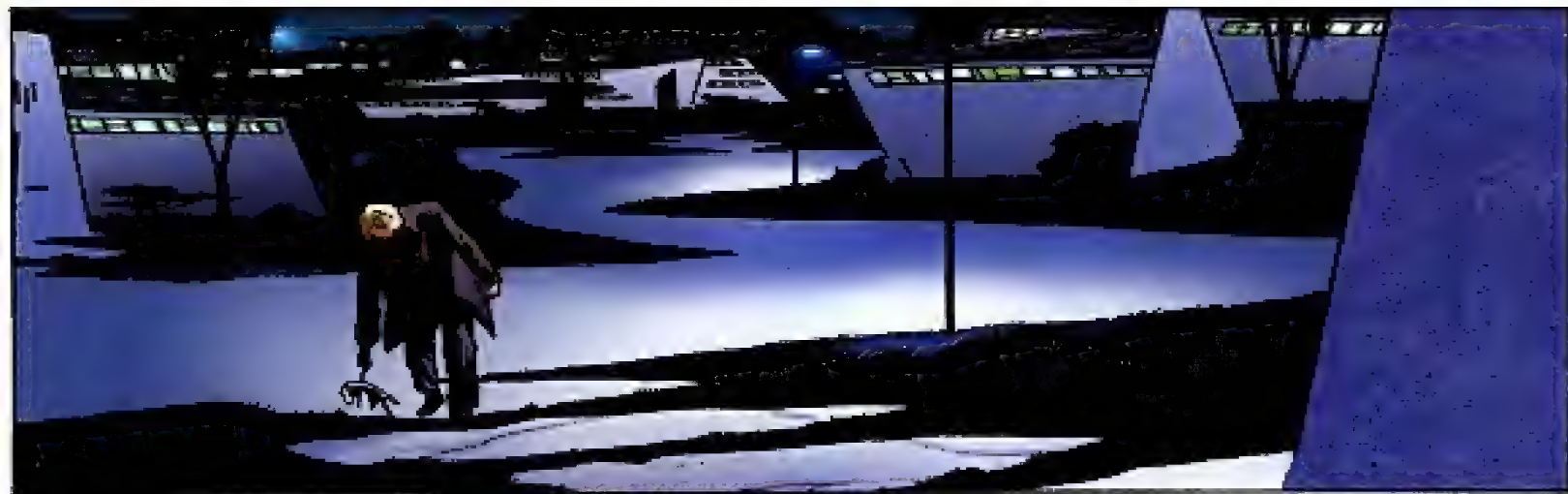


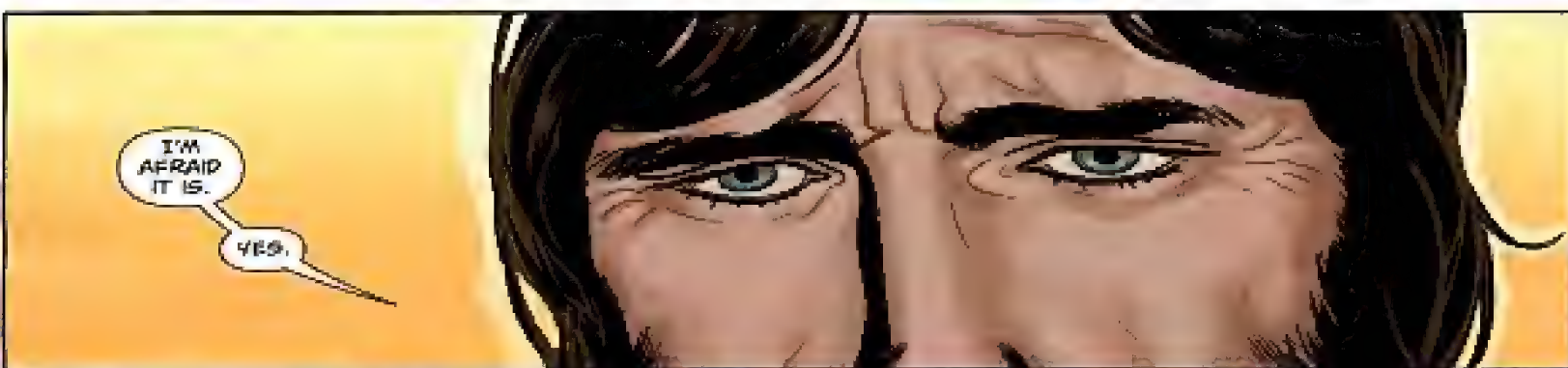


"THIS PROBLEM
YOU WANT ME
TO SOLVE..."







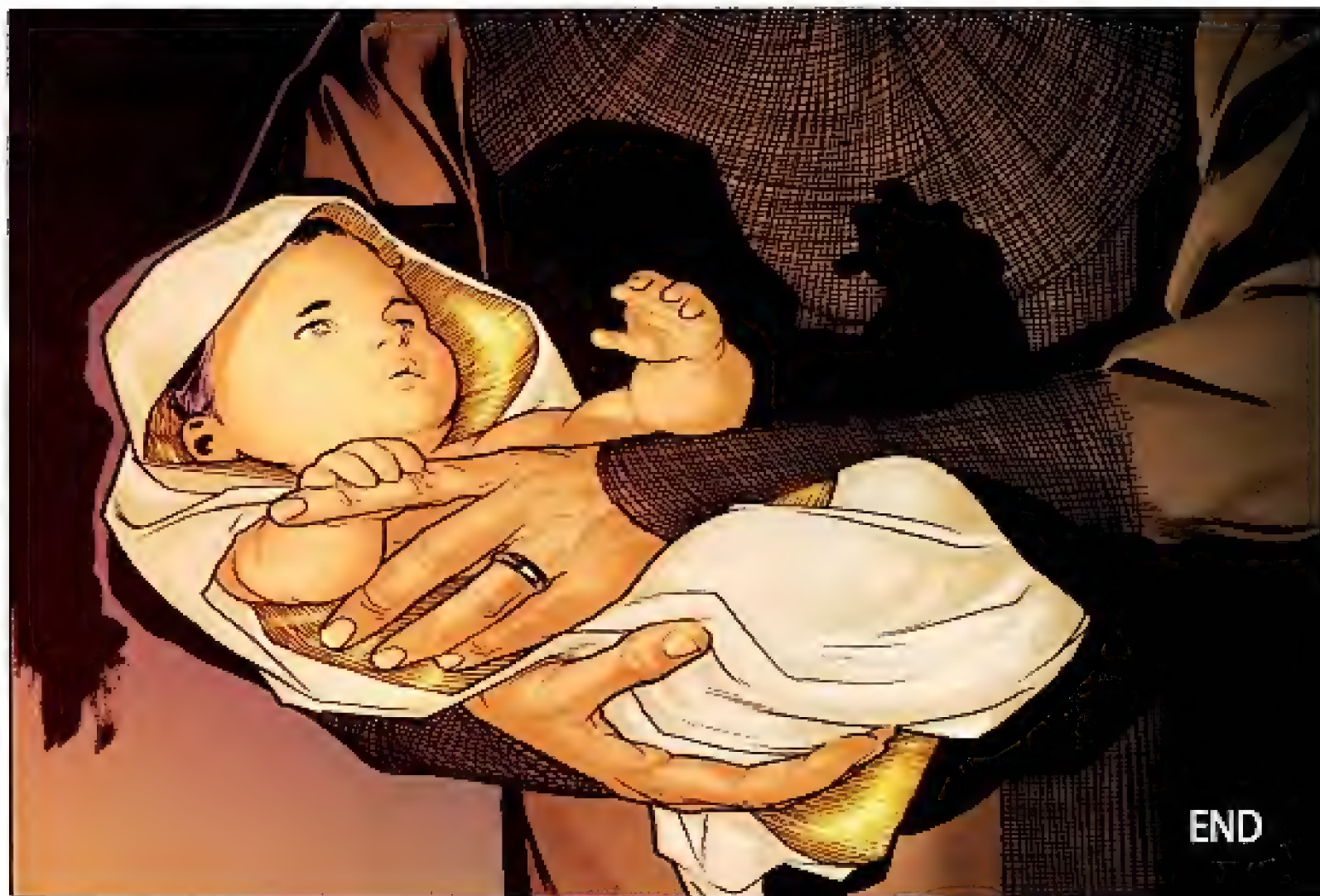




"JUST ONE
MORE NIGHT."

LIFE SUPPORT

DAMON LINDELOF *writer* RYAN SOOK *artist*
JOHN J. HILL *letterer* WIL MOSS *editor* MATT IDELSON *group editor*
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER



END

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

PAUL DINI

writer
RB SILVA
penciller

ROB LEAN

inker

JAVA TARTAGLIA

colorist

JOHN J. HILL

letterer

WIL MOSS

editor

MATT IDELSON

group editor

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

IT'S LONG
GONE TO DUST,
BUT TWENTY MILLION
YEARS AGO, THIS
WAS THE WORLD
I KNEW.

IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.

THE I'AWA,
THE DOMINANT
SPECIES
OF THE PLANET,
ONLY WISHED TO
PROVIDE ME
COMFORT.

IN
RETURN, I
QUELLED EARTH-
QUAKES, BROUGHT
RAIN TO DESERTS,
AND PERFORMED A
THOUSAND OTHER
SMALL ACTS A BEING
OF MY SPECIES
DOES WITH
EASE.

OF COURSE,
KAL-EL, YOU KNOW THAT
WHAT IS COMMONPLACE
FOR ONE SPECIES CAN BE
MISTAKEN FOR A MIRACLE
BY ANOTHER.

SO I'VE
HEARD.

IN TIME,
THERE CAME A
DISASTER THAT EVEN
I COULD NOT HALT--
A MASSIVE SOLAR
ERUPTION.

I CONSIDERED
TRANSPORTING THE
I'AWA TO A NEW
WORLD, BUT WOULD
THAT HAVE BEEN A
KINDNESS?

STARTING
LIFE OVER IN A
TERRIFYING PLACE
WHERE THEY WOULD
KNOW STRUGGLE
AND MISERY?



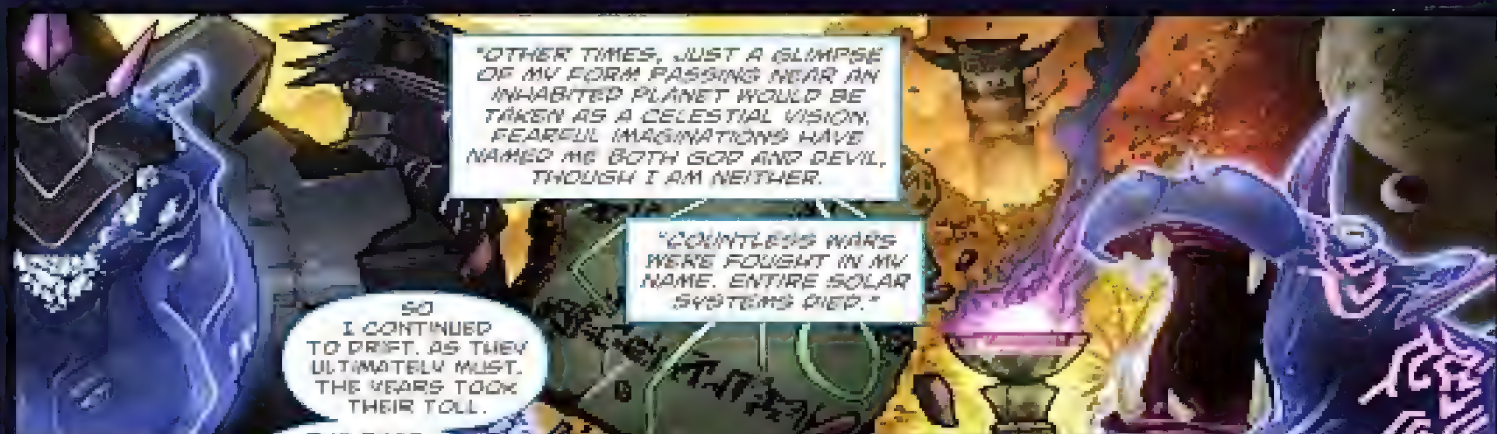


ON THAT FINAL NIGHT, I MADE SURE THE ENTIRE I'AWA RACE SLEPT BEFORE I MOVED ON. THEY NEVER SAW THE END OF THEIR WORLD.



LONG PASSED. I MOVED THROUGH THE STARS AS ONE OF MY RACE DOES, TRAVELING FROM WORLD TO WORLD.

MANY TIMES I WENT UNNOTICED BY THE CREATURES THAT LIVED UPON THEM.



"OTHER TIMES, JUST A GLIMPSE OF MY FORM PASSING NEAR AN INHABITED PLANET WOULD BE TAKEN AS A CELESTIAL VISION. FEARFUL IMAGINATIONS HAVE NAMED ME BOTH GOD AND DEVIL, THOUGH I AM NEITHER.

"COUNTLESS WARS WERE FOUGHT IN MY NAME. ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEMS DIED."

SO I CONTINUED TO DRIFT, AS THEY ULTIMATELY MUST. THE YEARS TOOK THEIR TOLL.

THE REST OF MY KIND HAD DIED OUT LONG AGO, AND ONLY I REMAINED.



THAT WAS WHEN YOU FOUND ME. ALMOST SPENT AND WITHOUT PURPOSE.



YOU BROUGHT ME HERE, WHERE I COULD LIVE MY LAST CENTURIES IN PEACE. FOR THAT I THANK YOU.

I'VE BENEFITED TOO, SARVA. YOU'VE TAUGHT ME THINGS ABOUT LIFE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE DISCOVERED BY MYSELF.

THE WORLDS YOU'VE VISITED WILL LIVE ON IN THE HOLO-IMAGES YOU'VE RECORDED.



WE ARE MUCH ALIKE, KAL-EL. WHILE IT IS NOT MY WISH, IN SOME FUTURE TIME YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF WANDERING THE STARS, A GOD ON ONE WORLD, A MICROBE ON ANOTHER.

I'VE CONSIDERED THAT. WHILE I CAN'T SAY WHAT MY DESTINY HOLDS, I WOULD HOPE SOME OF THE WONDERS I'VE EXPERIENCED WILL LIVE ON THROUGH ME, TOO.



AND I WOULD HOPE AS KINDLY A REFUGE EXISTS FOR YOU OUT THERE AS THE ONE YOU'VE PROVIDED FOR ME HERE.



KAL...

WAS I WRONG NOT TO SAVE THE I'IANA?



WE'RE ONLY HUMAN, SARVA.

END





WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A LEGION RING, LOIS?

SATURN GIRL GAVE IT TO ME IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES.

WHY WOULD YOU KEEP THAT IN YOUR DESK INSTEAD OF SOMEWHERE SAFE?

WHO'S GOING TO DARE SO DIGGING THROUGH THAT?

POINT TAKEN. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT? FLY?



NOTHING BEATS FLYING WITH YOU, CLARK.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO TIME-TRAVEL.

NO INTEREST IN REVISITING THE PAST OR SPOILING THE FUTURE.

THEN WHAT, LOIS?



CLARK, I WAS AN ARMY BRAT. IF I HAD A FRIEND FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, IT WAS A MIRACLE.

THE LEGION WERE YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIENDS FOR YEARS, BUT THE ONLY TIME YOU SEE THEM ANYMORE IS WHEN THE UNIVERSE IS ABOUT TO END.

I WANTED TO CALL YOUR FRIENDS AND INVITE THEM OVER FOR DINNER.



YOU DESERVE A NORMAL LIFE, CLARK. WHENEVER YOU CAN GET IT.



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COOK, ARE YOU?



I WOULDN'T DARE.

FRIDAY NIGHT ***in the 21st CENTURY***

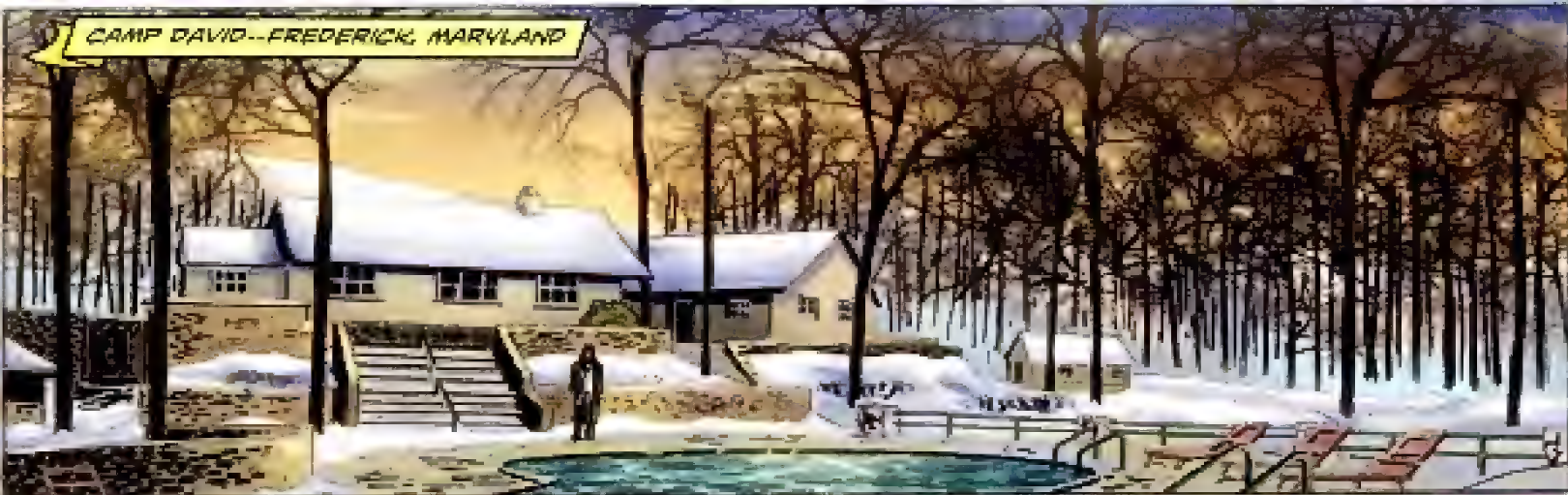




GEOFF JOHNS & GARY FRANK: STORYTELLERS

BRAD ANDERSON: COLORIST JOHN J. HILL: LETTERER
WIL MOBE: ASSOCIATE EDITOR KATT IDELSON: EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

CAMP DAVID--FREDERICK, MARYLAND





THANK YOU
FOR COMING. MY
NAME IS--

GABRIEL
WRIGHT,
THE PRESIDENT'S
NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR.



THEN YOU'RE
AWARE OF THE
GRAVITY OF THE
SITUATION.

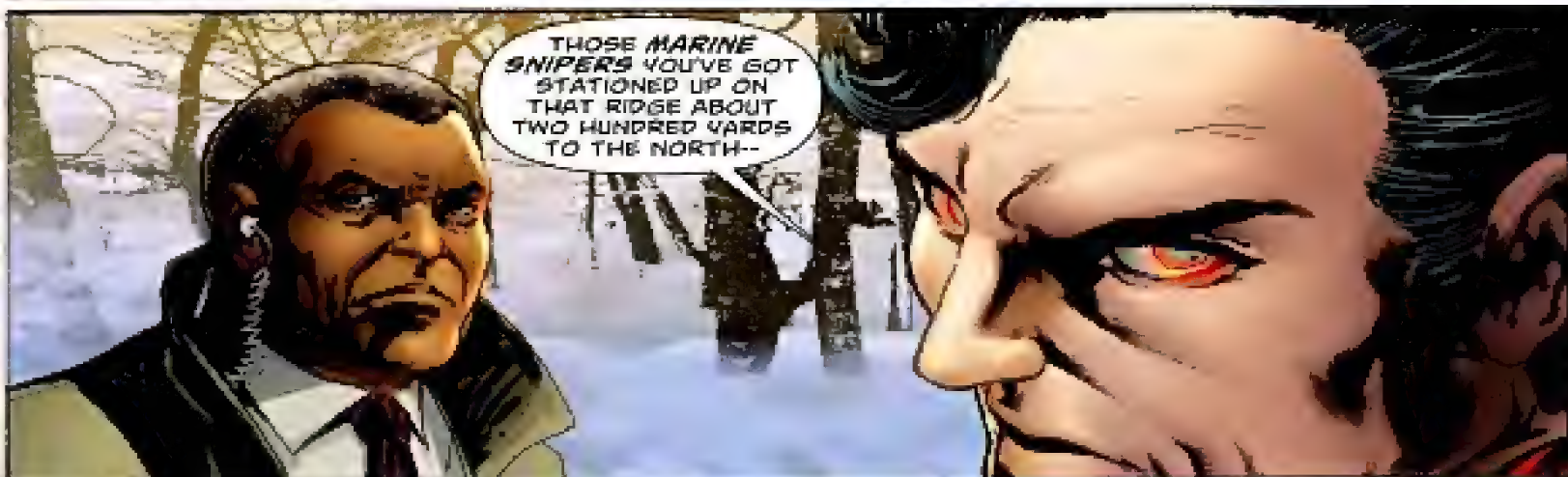


I UNDERSTAND
WHY THE PRESIDENT
IS CONCERNED,
OBVIOUSLY.
BUT AS
FOR SOME OF THE
SPECIFICS--WELL,
I GUESS I TAKE
ISSUE WITH HOW
THINGS HAVE BEEN
CHARACTERIZED
IN THE MEDIA.



MAYBE YOU COULD
SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT FOR US,
THEN.

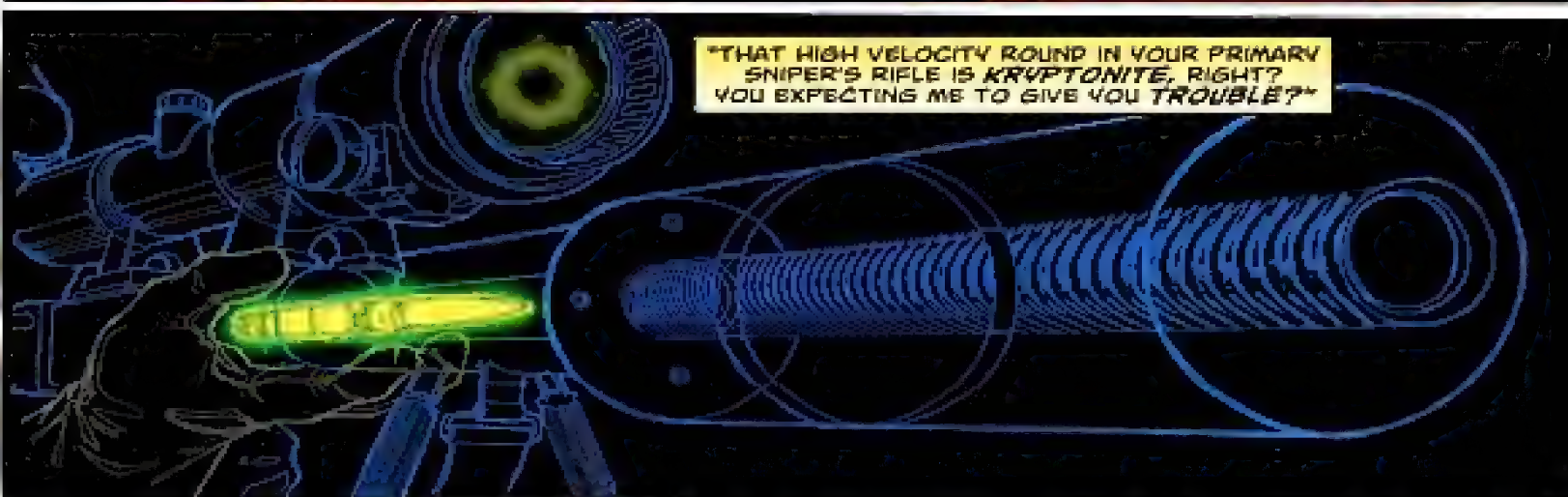
WHY DID
YOU DO IT? WHAT
IN GOD'S NAME WERE
YOU THINKING?



THOSE MARINE
SNIPERS YOU'VE GOT
STATIONED UP ON
THAT RIDGE ABOUT
TWO HUNDRED YARDS
TO THE NORTH--



"--THEIR *WINTER CAMO* DOESN'T DO MUCH TO HIDE THEM, SINCE I CAN SEE INTO THE *U.V.* AND *INFRARED SPECTRUMS*.



"THAT HIGH VELOCITY ROUND IN YOUR PRIMARY SNIPER'S RIFLE IS *KRYPTONITE*, RIGHT? YOU EXPECTING ME TO GIVE YOU TROUBLE?"



BOTTOM LINE?
WE DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO THINK.

WE'RE HOPING
YOU HAVEN'T GONE
ROGUE. WE'RE HOPING
YOU CAN PUT OUR
MINDS AT *EASE*.



SO I'M
GOING TO ASK
YOU *ONE MORE*
TIME:

WHAT,
IN GOD'S NAME, DID
YOU THINK YOU WERE
DOING FLYING INTO
TEHRAN?

"I FOLLOW THE NEWS, LIKE I SAID, AND I SAW THE REPORTS OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE DEMONSTRATING."

"THERE'D BEEN VIOLENCE THE WEEK BEFORE. AHMADINEJAD'S REGIME HAD OVERREACTED. PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED."

"SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS...HAD BEEN DISAPPEARING."

"APPARENTLY, THE PROTEST LEADERS HAD BEEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA SITES TO HELP THEM ORGANIZE."


"AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PIGGYBACKING ONTO THOSE SITES, SO THEY KNEW WHO TO ARREST-- WHERE THEY'D BE."

"THE IRANIAN ARMY HAD BEEN WARNING THE PUBLIC ABOUT ENGAGING IN FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS."

"THEY SAID THERE WOULD BE 'HARSH REPERCUSSIONS.'"

"BUT THESE PEOPLE--STUDENTS, SHOPKEEPERS, MOTHERS, FATHERS, CHILDREN--THEY WERE PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE DESPITE THE WARNINGS."

"I WANTED TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY WEREN'T ALONE."




"AS A SUPER-HERO,
AS METROPOLIS'
PROTECTOR, I'VE
FOUGHT JUST ABOUT
EVERY THREAT
IMAGINABLE;
ALIEN INVADERS--


"TIME-TRAVELING
DESPOTS--

"ROGUES WITH EVERY KIND
OF COSTUME AND GIMMICK
YOU CAN THINK OF.

"I'M GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO
FIGHTING APOCALYPTIC THREATS.



"BUT THE EVERYDAY
DEGRADATIONS THAT
HUMANS SUFFER?



"DYING OF THIRST?
HUNGER? PEOPLE
BEING DENIED THEIR
BASIC HUMAN
RIGHTS?

"I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY
EFFECTIVE AT STOPPING
THINGS LIKE THAT.



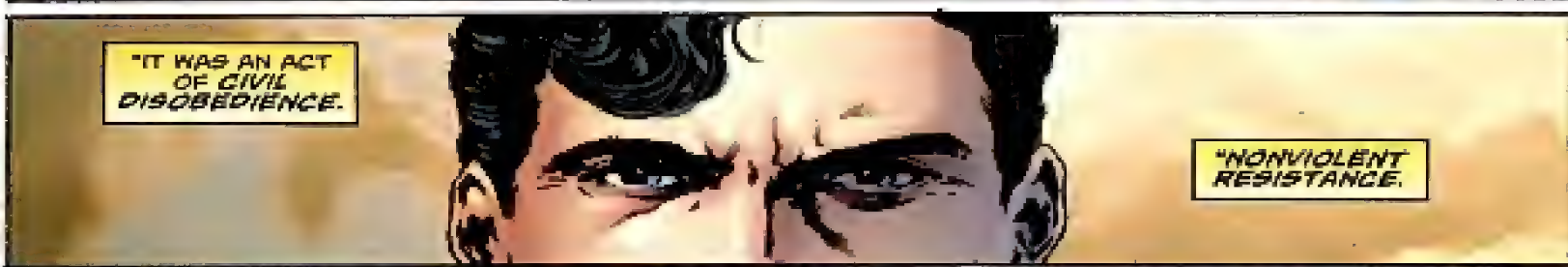
"AND I WANT TO BE."



"SO I SHOWED UP. IN *SOLIDARITY*."



"I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T DIRECTLY ENGAGE. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED."



"IT WAS AN ACT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE."

"NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE."



"I STAYED IN AZADI SQUARE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. I DIDN'T MOVE. I DIDN'T SPEAK. I JUST STAYED THERE."

"IN THAT TIME, THE PROTESTORS' RANKS GREW FROM AN ESTIMATED 120,000 PEOPLE TO WELL OVER ONE MILLION."

"SOME OF THE PEOPLE THREW ROSES AT MY FEET."



"OTHERS THREW GREEN SASHES AND FLAGS. THE COLOR OF THEIR PROTEST."



"COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS THREW MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT ME."



"BUT THE ARMY OF THE GUARDIAN OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION NEVER FIRED A SHOT."



"THE DEMONSTRATION BEGAN AND ENDED PEACEFULLY."

"THEN, AFTER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I LEFT."

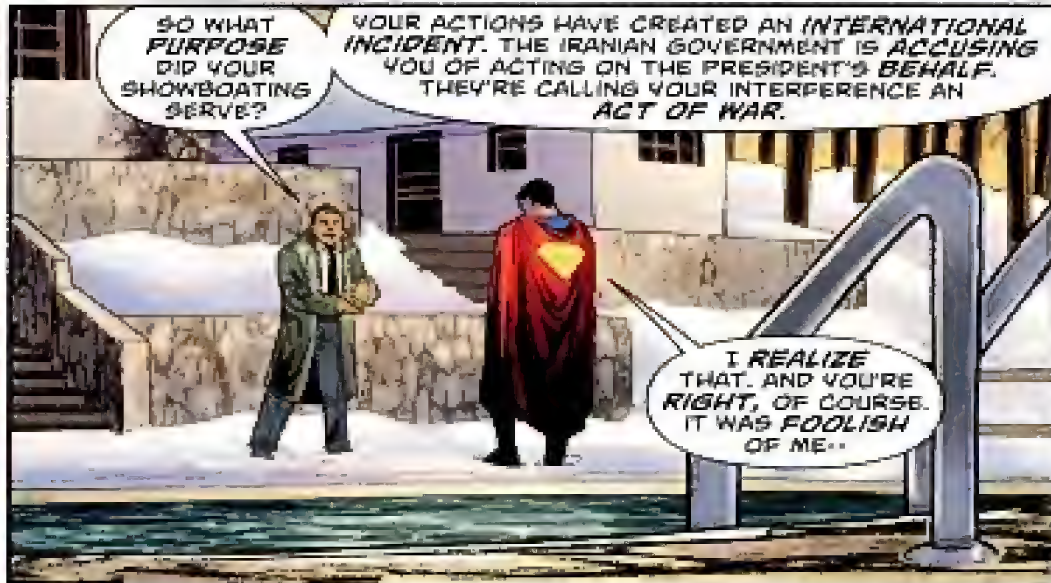


"BUT DID IT DO ANY GOOD?"

"DID THE RESIME PROMISE TO START INSTITUTING DEMOCRATIC REFORMS?"



NO.



SO WHAT PURPOSE DID YOUR SHOWBOATING SERVE?

YOUR ACTIONS HAVE CREATED AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS ACCUSING YOU OF ACTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S BEHALF. THEY'RE CALLING YOUR INTERFERENCE AN ACT OF WAR.

I REALIZE THAT. AND YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME...



--WHICH IS WHY I INTEND TO SPEAK BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS TOMORROW AND INFORM THEM THAT I AM RENOUNCING MY U.S. CITIZENSHIP.

WHAT?

I'M TIRED OF HAVING MY ACTIONS CONSTRUED AS INSTRUMENTS OF U.S. POLICY.

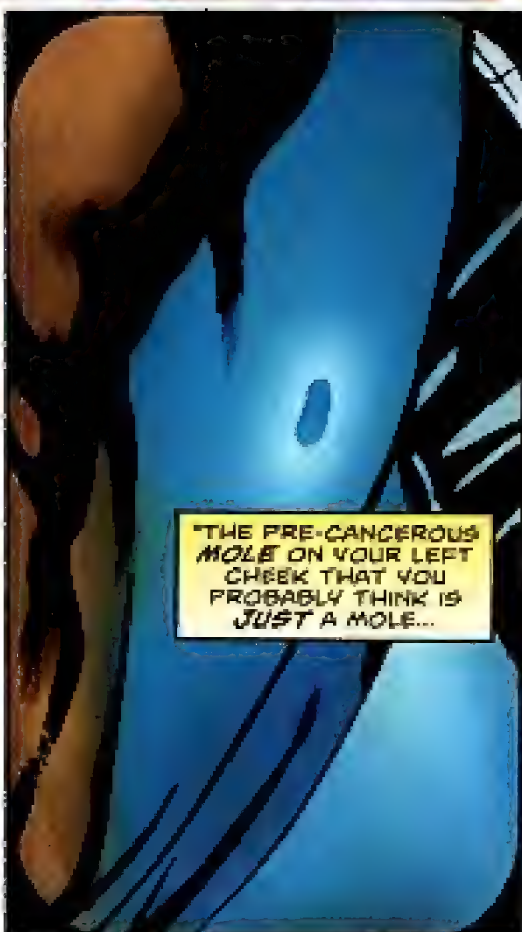
TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN WAY... IT'S NOT ENOUGH ANYMORE.



THE WORLD'S TOO SMALL. TOO CONNECTED.



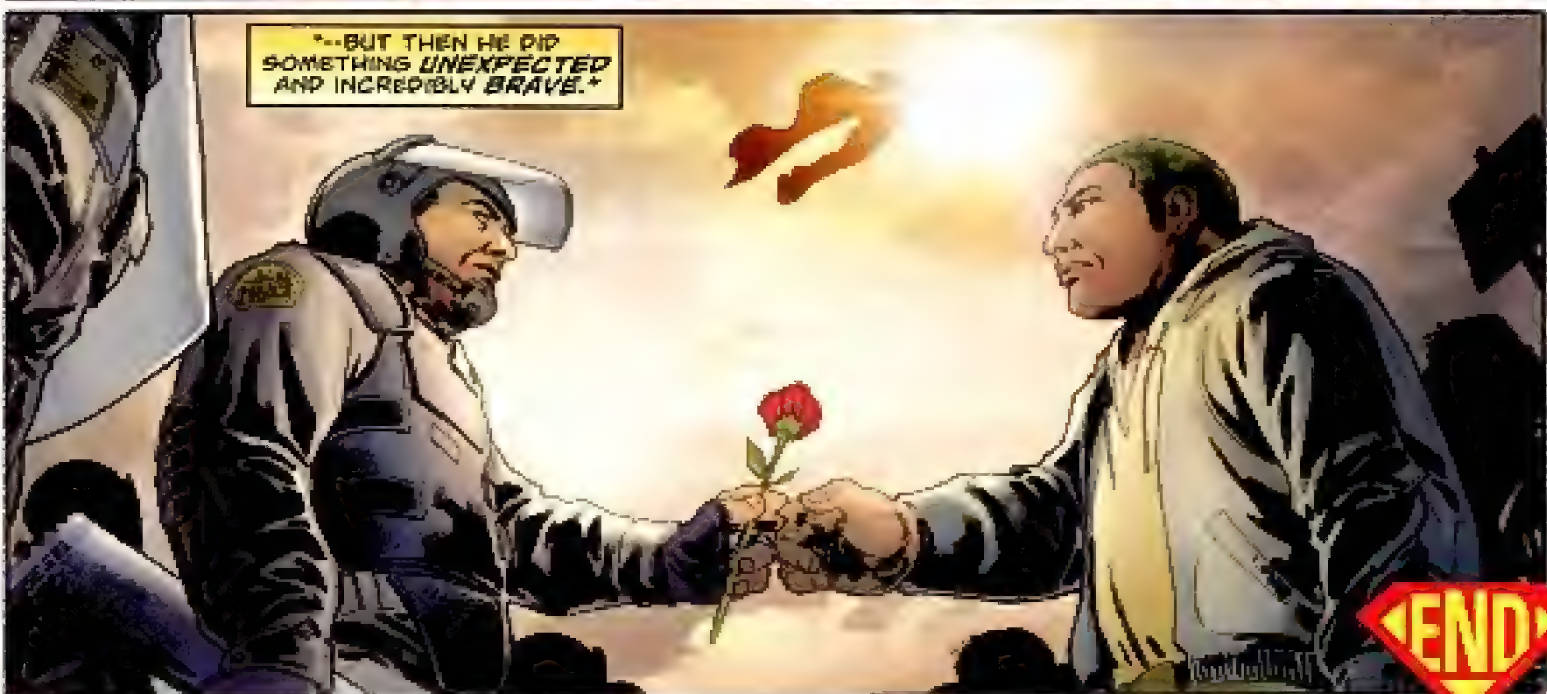
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I SEE YOU IN EVERY SPECTRUM. I CAN SEE THE MICROSCOPIC DEMODEX MITES THAT LIVE IN YOUR EYELASHES...



THE PRE-CANCEROUS MOLE ON YOUR LEFT CHEEK THAT YOU PROBABLY THINK IS JUST A MOLE...



THE HALO OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION LEAKING FROM YOUR SMART-PHONE...



ACTION COMICS #900

“Only Human”

Screenplay by
Richard Donner
&
Derek Hoffman

Storyboards by
Matt Camp

Superman created by
Jerry Siegel
&
Joe Shuster



INT. DAILY PLANET - (CLARK CU)

We see the familiar spectacles of CLARK KENT. He's looking right at us as if we are something both unfamiliar and slightly disconcerting.

INT. DAILY PLANET - CONTINUOUS

We see LOIS LANE, the world's most tenacious reporter. We are used to seeing her standing up to crooked politicians and super villains, but here she sits ON her desk, cross-legged, interviewing CLIFF CARTER.

Cliff is the former Metropolis Comets star running back and Monarchs center fielder. Think if Tom Brady and Bo Jackson were the same person. The normal cacophony of the newsroom has ground to a halt. Everyone is mesmerized by the scene of these two, talking to each other like there is no one else in the room.

LOIS LANE

But Cliff, as the new spokesperson for SuperTech, how do you respond to the allegations the company is a front for intergang?

CLIFF CARTER

Miss Lane, when I was a pro athlete, I learned that the better you were, the more they try to bring you down. Now I know the many rumors and lies that the media, present company excluded, likes to spread about SuperTech, but that's all they are: rumors and lies.

Lois presses Cliff, who turns on his megawatt smile.

LOIS LANE

Please, call me Lois. So you really aren't selling technology that intergang stole from S.T.A.R. Labs and modified?

CLIFF CARTER

Of course not, Lois.

(a smile)

We took the amazing advances made by the likes of Tesla and Edison and simply took them to the next level.

LOIS LANE

And these suits are designed to give average people special powers?

CLIFF CARTER

Not special powers per se, but to enhance what we have. Of course, some of us have a little more to start with than others.

Lois and Cliff share a laugh. Clark is not amused.

CLARK KENT

Excuse me for interrupting, Lois, but I don't think we can overlook the danger this could pose.

Cliff and Lois turn to face Clark. Two against one.

LOIS LANE

Why not, Clark? We seem to be okay with anyone having these powers as long as they have a costume.

CLIFF CARTER

You look around and see metahumans flying through the air, picking up cars, Clark. It's only human to think "Why not me?"





Cliff is now grandstanding. He is in the center of the room and preaching to the crowd. Full sales pitch. Clark is the only person in the room not enraptured.

CLIFF CARTER

The air around us is filled with energy. We have found a way to draw on that energy and harness that energy, and we can honestly say that it's a new day in the era of man. For a very small price, you too can be a Superman. You too can know the freedom that comes with all of this power. You can be the man of your dreams. And let's face it, Lois, isn't it worth a little money to fulfill your fantasies?



Lois has to fight Carter's charisma.

LOIS LANE

Well, I'm not sure how my husband would feel about that, Cliff, but that sure would make Superman's job easier.

CLIFF CARTER

Exactly! You know as well as I that sometimes you just need an opportunity to reach your true potential. Just think of the possibilities.



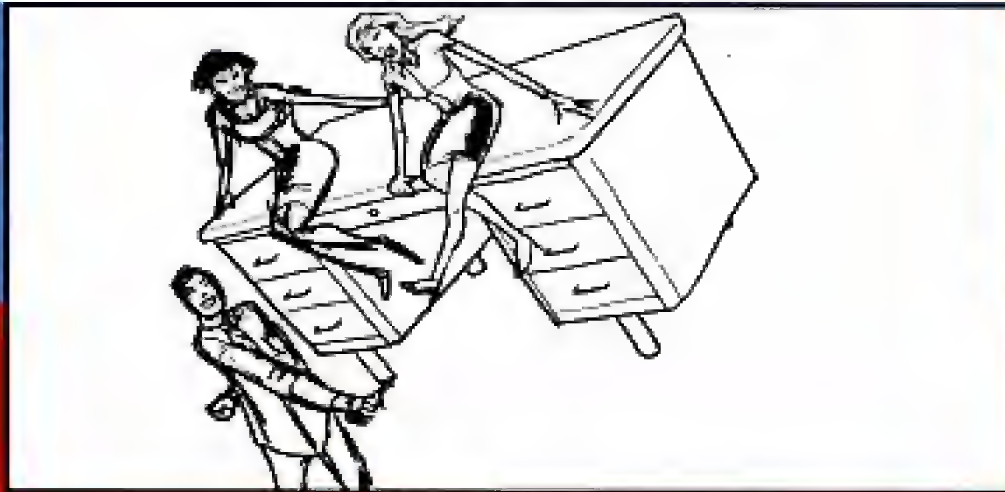
Cliff turns up a dial on his wrist and all of the electronics in the room dim.

He races from one side of the room to the other.



CLIFF CARTER

With the EX9000 I have a 2.5 40-yard dash. Wish I'd run that in college.



Cliff lifts up a desk with two women sitting on it.

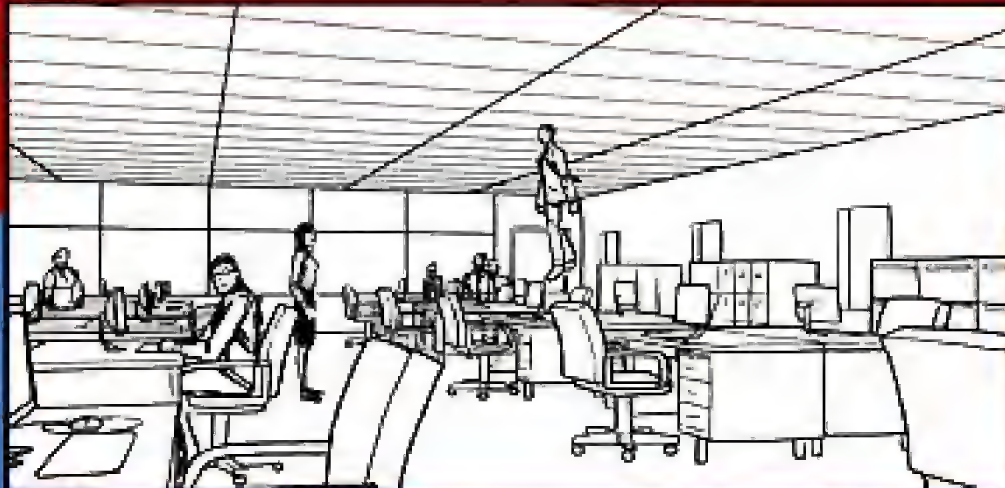
CLIFF CARTER

I'm eight times stronger than I was in my best years with the Monarchs. I would have hit more than 78 home runs, I bet!

With the entire room now staring slack-jawed at him, Cliff literally floats his way back to Lois.

CLIFF CARTER

And come on now Miss Lane, I am one of this country's most celebrated athletes of all time. But I was bound. Limited. With the EX9000 SuperSuit, I can fly.



We are over Cliff's shoulder now, seeing Lois mid frame and Clark and Jimmy in the BG. Lois is dumbstruck, but Clark looks like we've never really seen before. Annoyed?

JIMMY OLSEN

Wow. What a swell suit.

CLIFF CARTER

Swell, Jimmy?...



Cliff, replicating the now ubiquitous pose, opens his shirt and puffs out his chest to reveal the EX9000 under his shirt.

(Note: This is cheesy, and Cliff is playing it to the max. Full smile, Hollywood good looks. It's like Will Smith getting the chance to play Superman.)

CLIFF CARTER

You mean Super!



(ARTIST NOTE- He will have a helmet when he files that has a windshield so we can see his face. There should be a small receiver on the back, either mid-back or maybe on the belt, and a control panel on the wrist.)



The whole room is standing and applauding, even Lois. Clark can't believe they are falling for this act.

CLARK KENT

Oh come now, Lois. This isn't the first time someone has tried to artificially wield power beyond their reach, and how does it usually end up?

LOIS LANE

And how many times has it worked out, Clark? For every one of those disasters, we've been given a Batman, a Green Lantern, a Wonder Woman. A Superman.



Cliff sees he's won Lois over, now he has to shut Clark up. And as a matter of fact, he likes the challenge.

CLIFF CARTER

Mr. Kent, you underestimate me. And you underestimate the people of Metropolis. All of these years we've relied on someone else to do things for us, someone else to be our hero. No more. From now on, we can have the power.



Cliff has now stripped out of his business suit and is now fully in the EX9000, an imposing figure. Lois is still mid frame, but we can see Clark is now standing.

CLIFF CARTER

From now on, when someone says "LOOK UP IN THE SKY!", it will be because someone is using a SuperTech EX9000.

Clark can no longer contain himself.

CLARK KENT

I'm not so sure Superman is so easily replaced, Cliff.



Cliff gathers his composure. This is an opportunity. He can use this. And he knows how to get the room behind him.

CLIFF CARTER

Oh, yeah? Well, let's show Miss Lane here who the real champion is in Metropolis. Why don't I challenge Superman to a contest. Let's see what the EX9000 can do. Surely there's no harm in that.

LOIS LANE

I don't think that's going to happen.



Cliff leans into Lois. His eyes twinkle and his teeth gleam. Her eyes are wide and her lips struggle to contain a smile.

CLIFF CARTER

C'mon, Lois. It's perfectly harmless. Or are you worried what happens when I beat him?

LOIS LANE

Well, I doubt that will happen, because Superman will never do it.

Seeing low angle looking up between Cliff and Lois, Clark is standing in front of his desk.

CLARK KENT

I think he might.



EXT. DAILY PLANET - EVENING

Superman floats above the Daily Planet Globe. Cliff enters from the bottom of the frame.

CLIFF CARTER

Hey, Big Blue. Thanks for coming.

SUPERMAN

Not at all, Cliff. Clark seems to think I can be of some assistance.

CLIFF CARTER

Remember that charity gig we did when you played the Monarchs 1 on 9?

CU on Superman. A hint of a satisfied smile on his face.

SUPERMAN

I won in the third inning, right? What's that called?

CLIFF CARTER

Mercy rule. And yeah, that's the one. How about a rematch?

SUPERMAN

What's the deal with the suit?

CLIFF CARTER

It's a nano-fiber exoskeleton, but it's all about the engine. Found a way to collect ambient electricity floating around the radiosphere.

SUPERMAN

Clark mentioned you were selling it?

CLIFF CARTER

Not selling it yet, we're still in the testing phase. This here's the prototype.





SUPERMAN
*That's powerful technology to
 put in the hands of just anybody.*

CLIFF CARTER
*Sounds like you're scared to me.
 Don't want little Miss Lois Lane
 to see you become irrelevant?*

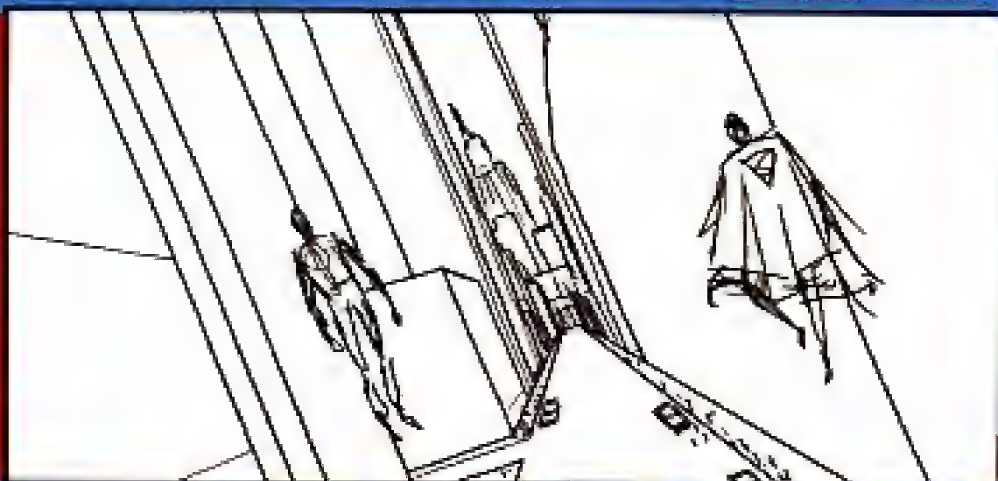


Superman knows Cliff is goading
 him, but damn if it isn't working.

SUPERMAN
And what if I win?

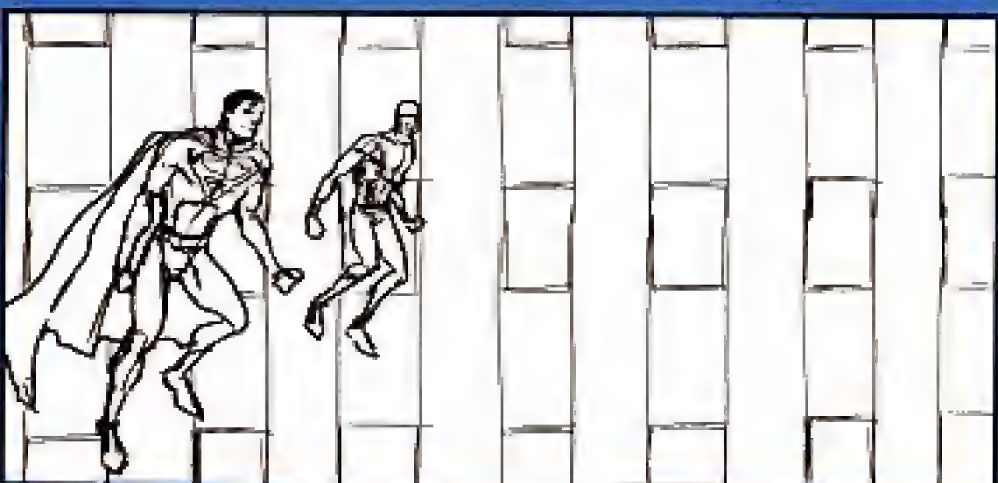
Cliff smiles wide. He can see he
 has Superman on the hook.

CLIFF CARTER
*Hey man, look at all the people
 down there, waiting for us. Let's
 give 'em a little show. Wouldn't
 want to disappoint your fans.*



**P.O.V. METROPOLIS STREET-
 SUPERMAN'S P.O.V. - EVENING**
 Superman sees the crowds that
 have gathered along the street.

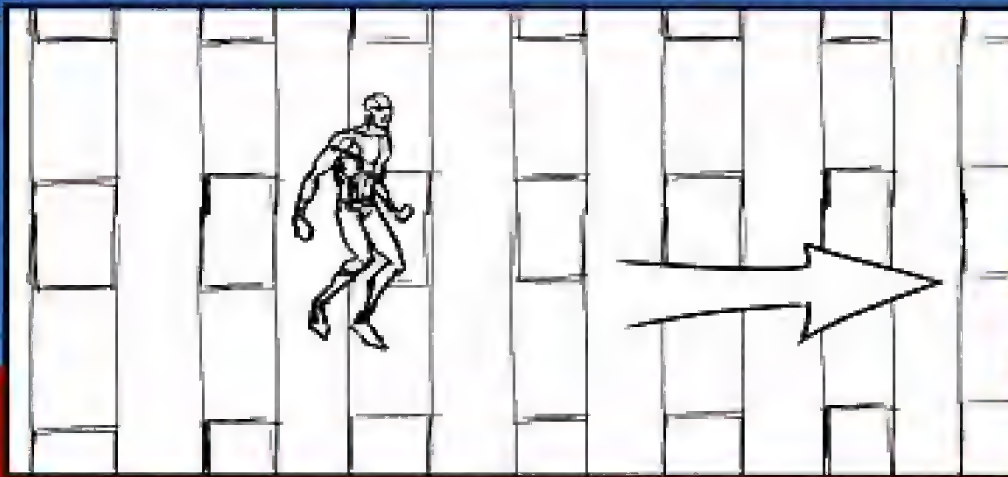
SUPERMAN
*All right. One lap around the city.
 First one back here to touch the
 globe wins?*



**EXT. METROPOLIS SKY -
 EVENING**

Cliff smiles and starts to power
 up the suit a little more.

CLIFF CARTER
*You got it, but take it easy on me,
 I wanna look good for Lois...*



Superman takes off before he can even get the words out of his mouth.

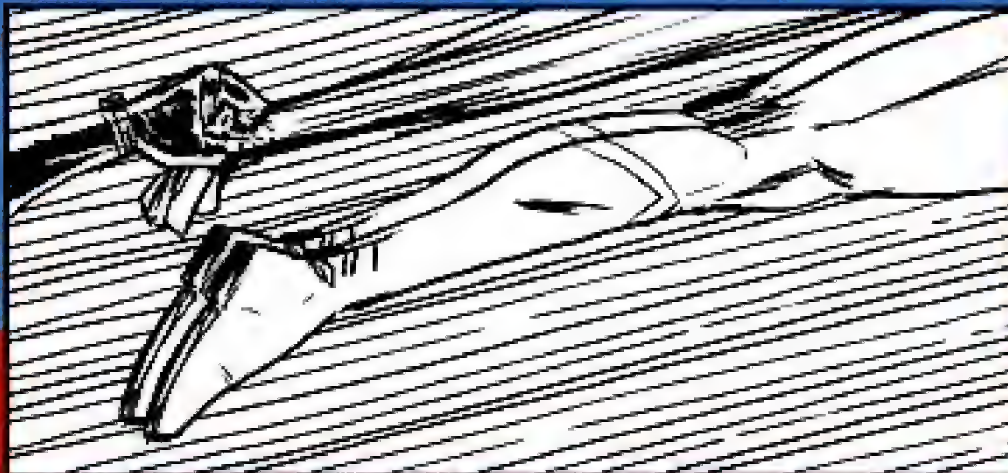
CLIFF CARTER

Oh it's on.

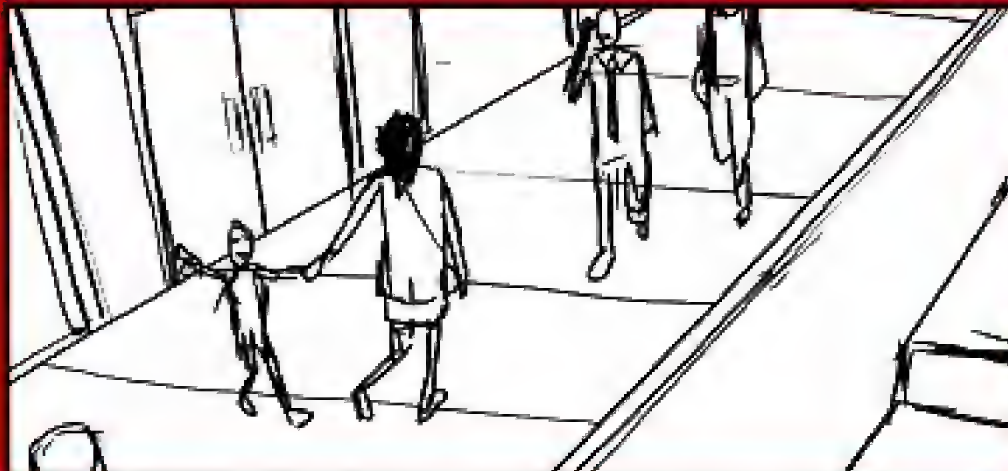


EXT. METROPOLIS - ABOVE UNION STATION - EVENING

We see Superman flying at the camera. Cliff a little way behind him. Cliff is still smiling, but it's an intense-looking smile.



Cliff catches up to Superman and does the one thing we all know you shouldn't: he tugs on Superman's cape!



EXT. METROPOLIS STREET CORNER - EVENING

A young boy is being pulled by his mother, but he is dragging, looking back over his shoulder in awe.

LITTLE BOY

Look! Up in the sky!



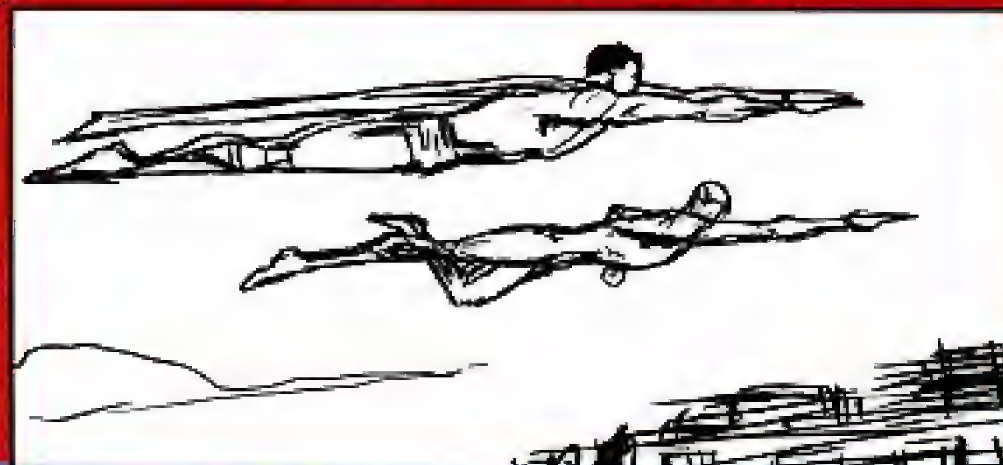
P.O.V. METROPOLIS SKY
- EVENING

A POV of the little boy. Maybe the tops of a couple of skyscrapers. Cliff is in classic flight pose, almost a variation of the Heisman trophy. But swooping down into frame, leaving a blur of red behind him, is Superman.



EXT. METROPOLIS' SKY
- EVENING

Cliff looks over his shoulder and sees Superman gaining on him. He smirks to himself, turns up the power to the red line on his suit, and dives down towards "The Rail Whale," or elevated train tracks.



P.O.V. SUPERMAN - EVENING

Superman can see now a faint glow, or visual hum, around Cliff. He catches up to Cliff.

SUPERMAN

Hey, what's the fastest you've flown that thing?

CLIFF CARTER

Fast enough, Blue.

Superman just smiles.



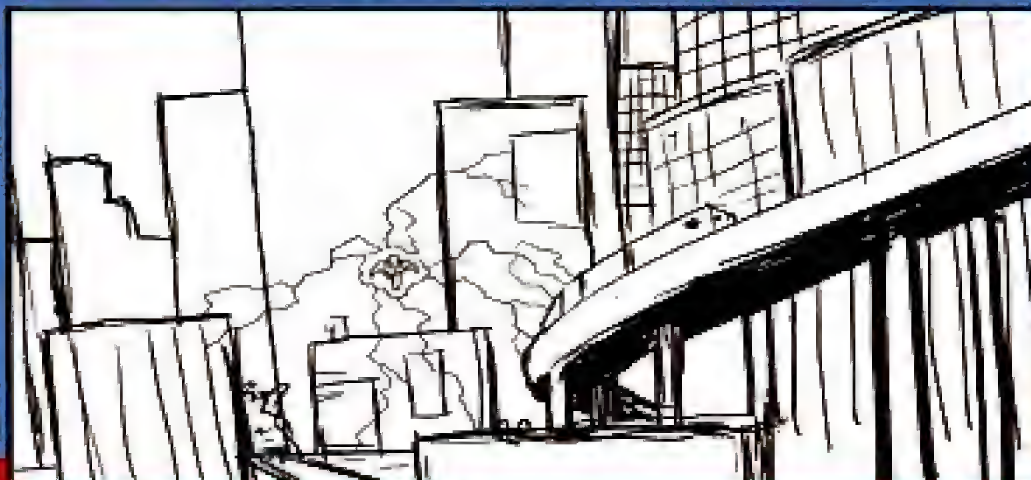
EXT. METROPOLIS SKY
- CENTENNIAL PARK - EVENING

Superman races past Cliff, just over the heads of the crowd lining the street that goes through Centennial Park. They are halfway home.

Cliff hits the park and seems to lose ground. He turns the power up way past the red line and gains some speed.

CLIFF CARTER

Go big or go home, I guess.



EXT. METROPOLIS SKY
- EVENING

Cliff emerges from the park and approaches a busy intersection, the Rail Whale reappearing and a mini Times Square of electronic billboards. The suit now has too much energy to draw from as the barely visible hum around him intensifies and he is shot forward.



Billboards dim, the train's automatic track begins to short out and cars smash into each other as the traffic lights go out.

Superman hears the commotion and turns back to see what's going on.

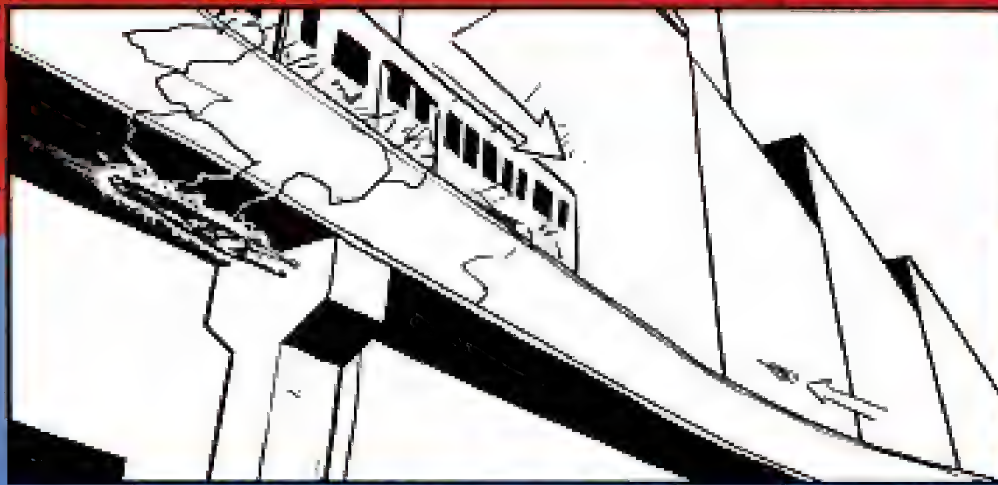


EXT. METROPOLIS SKY
- EVENING

Superman is far ahead, but sees Cliff's suit sparking. The suit is leeching power from everywhere, and the whole block is dark, including the train. The spark from its wheels show us the electrical circuitry that so famously runs Metropolis trains is not helping, and the train rockets toward a turn.



SUPERMAN
Cliff! The train!



Superman takes off toward Cliff and the train. Cliff is closer to the train, but doesn't move to help. Superman is closing fast, but maybe he was just a bit too far ahead.

Superman reaches the train just in time to slow it down, while Cliff just watches.

CLIFF CARTER

Way to go, Big Blue. I'll be sure to tell Lois about it back at the Planet.

SUPERMAN

Cliff! That suit is too dangerous...



But Cliff has already taken off and is out of earshot.

**EXT. METROPOLIS SKY -
S.T.A.R. LABS - EVENING**

Superman is chasing Cliff. We see the lights of the high-tech S.T.A.R. LABS FACILITY in the distance.

CLIFF CARTER

Hey Blue! Keep up!

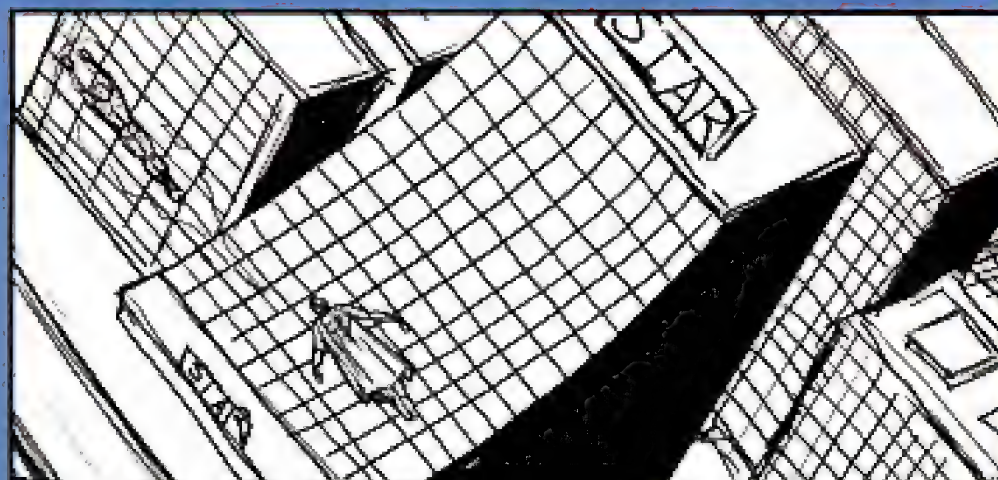
The energy field around Cliff blossoms as he siphons the energy from the lab. A sonic boom accompanies an insane boost of speed as he heads up the shore.

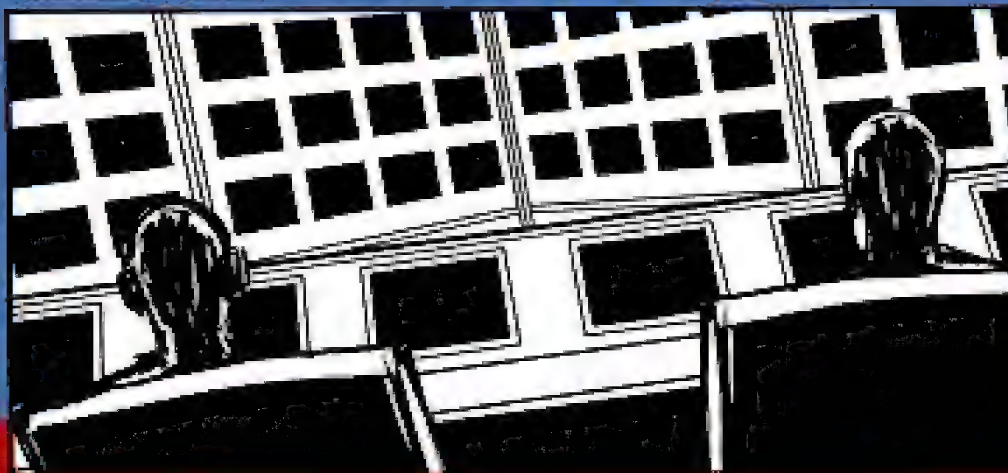


A shocked look comes over Superman's face.

SUPERMAN

Good God, Cliff, stand down!! You'll shut down the power on Stryker's Island!





**INT. STRYKER'S ISLAND
PRISON - EVENING**

A PRISON GUARD watches a bank of monitors that are flickering out. Another GUARD looks up in alarm.

PRISON GUARD 1
What the blazes?

PRISON GUARD 2
Power shutting down on the whole island! Sound the alarm!

**EXT. METROPOLIS SKY-
STRYKER'S ISLAND - EVENING**

The searchlights are on all over the prison facility that houses Metropolis's most violent human offenders. Alarm horns blare as Cliff and Superman can be seen approaching in the distance.

CLIFF CARTER
Sorry. You'll have to catch me first!

SUPERMAN
Have it your way.

**EXT. METROPOLIS SKY-
STRYKER'S ISLAND - EVENING**

Just as Cliff is sapping the power of two of the island's sentry boats, Superman goes supersonic and tackles Cliff. He carries him past the prison too fast to do any damage.

**INT. STRYKER'S ISLAND
PRISON - EVENING**

The PRISON GUARDS are looking at the monitors, one of them is on the phone. The WARDEN rushes in.

WARDEN
What's the status?

PRISON GUARD 1
I'm... I'm not sure, sir.

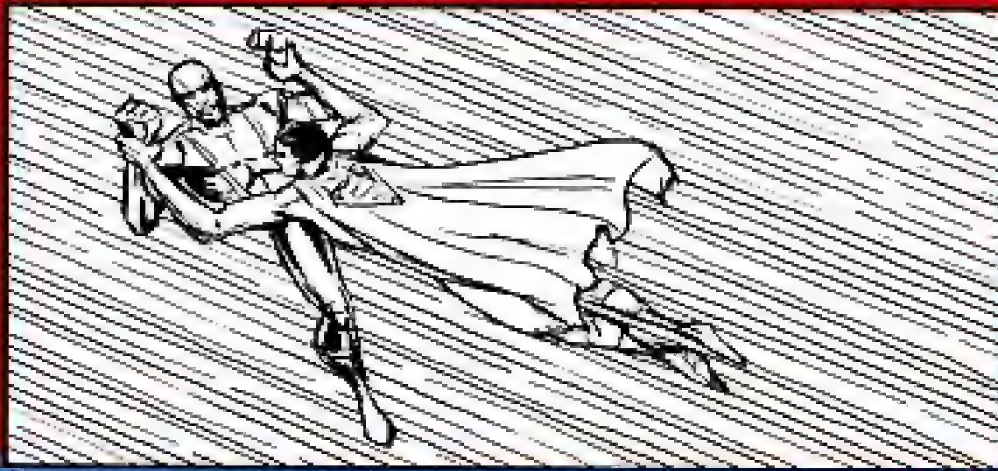
WARDEN
What the hell does that mean?

PRISON GUARD 2
Reports are in, sir. The power seems to be back to normal.

WARDEN
How the hell did that happen?

PRISON GUARD 1
Superman, sir. It looks like Superman saved us.





PRISON GUARD 1
Superman saved us.

EXT. METROPOLIS SKY
- EVENING

A MCU on Superman and Cliff as they struggle, streaking through the sky.

CLIFF CARTER
What are you doing, man!?

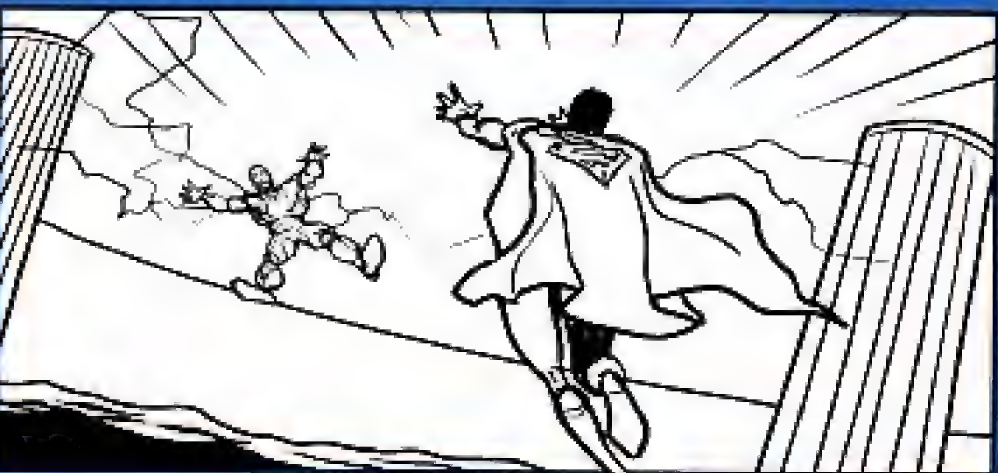


SUPERMAN
I'm shutting you down.



EXT. METROPOLIS SKY-
THE S.A.I. DAM - EVENING

Superman carries Cliff out over the massive WATERFALL caused by one of Metropolis's two enormous hydroelectric dams.



SUPERMAN
I'm sorry, Cliff. This suit is just too dangerous to be in the hands of the wrong people.



CLIFF CARTER
AAAAAGGGHHHHH!!!

Cliff cries out as the suit overloads on the intense amount of power it's siphoning off the power plant at the base of the dam. The receiver and control panel both short out and explode, incapacitating Cliff.



EXT. DAILY PLANET - EVENING

Lois comes running out of a door onto the roof of The Planet. In the foreground, we see the unconscious Cliff Carter, his EX9000 still smoking. A familiar pair of red boots is just leaving the frame.

LOIS LANE
Wait! Wait! Superman!



Clark appears behind her and runs over to Cliff.

CLARK KENT
Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter, can you hear me?

LOIS LANE
Oh no, Cliff. Is he all right? What happened?



Clark looks a tad annoyed.

CLARK KENT
I think he'll be fine, but it looks like his SuperSuit wasn't all he made it out to be.

LOIS LANE
Clark! He could have been seriously hurt. Or worse.



Clark stands up, bristling just a little.

CLARK KENT

*Well I guess he's lucky.
Superman is a good winner.*



LOIS LANE

*I see what's going on here,
Smallville. You don't like Cliff.
You were annoyed the moment
he walked in The Planet.*

CLARK KENT

Me? No.

LOIS LANE

*Oh yes you were. And now that I
think about it, I don't think I've
ever seen you that way before.*

CLARK KENT

*What? Annoyed? I get annoyed
all the time. Why just the other
day...*



LOIS LANE

Not annoyed, Clark. Jealous.

*Lois has a smile more powerful
than Kryptonite.*



CLARK KENT

Well gee, Lois, I'm only human.

FIN



**THE EVOLUTION OF
THE MAN OF TOMORROW**
BY BRIAN STELFREEZE





MATT IDELSON EDITOR & **WIL MOSS** ASSOCIATE EDITOR

We're very honored and proud to bring you **ACTION COMICS #900**, the first superhero comic to reach such a milestone. Big thanks to Paul, Pete and Jesus for that whopper of a lead story, and of course our thanks as well to that amazing roster of guest contributors. All of us who worked on this issue owe a great deal of gratitude to the countless individuals who have worked on this title since its debut in 1938. Nine hundred issues published continuously since 1938 -- it's kind of mind-blowing to think about ...

Anyway, seeing as how this is the first issue of **ACTION** we've had enough room to run letters in since DC brought the letter columns back, and given that it's the conclusion of Paul Cornell and Pete Woods's epic "Black Ring" story, we thought we'd run a couple (of the many!) great letters we've received so far in support of their run! More next issue!

Dear DC,

*I just wanted to thank the creative team on **ACTION COMICS** for the great job they have been doing.*

*When I heard that Superman was not going to be in **ACTION COMICS** and that the adventures of Lex Luthor would be presented for the time being, I was surprised and expected not to continue with the series until the "big guy" returned. To my surprise and delight, I have found each and every issue better than the last.*

*From the excellent writing, artwork and covers, Lex Luthor's **ACTION COMICS** issues have never disappointed me in the least. They even introduced me to reading **SECRET SIX** and **THE DOOM PATROL** as well.*

I hope once Lex's current run is over that the creative team will once in a while do a special or miniseries about Lex in the future.

Keep up the great work.

*Oliver Ortiz
Brooklyn, NY*

Dear Superbooks,

*Everything Paul Cornell has written is a blast. I love **KNIGHT & SQUIRE**, but his **ACTION** run is where it's at; he's experimental, yet contained.*

*Also, I think if we look back on this Lex Luthor run, and consider how amazing Brian Azzarello's **LUTHOR** miniseries was, we really need to ask why this character does not get his own title. With the vilification of Wall Street and corporate big shots, Luthor is no longer just the bald guy in the green and purple battlesuit, but something even more horrifying -- real, like us, but with loads of cash.*

Give us more Cornell, and more Lex Luthor!!!

*Christopher Kaufman
Louisville, KY*



Before we go, we wanted to bid a fond farewell to Pete Woods, who is moving on to a top-secret dynamite new DC project. Pete has been an invaluable part of the Superman line over the past several years, from "One Year Later" and **SUPERMAN: WORLD OF NEW KRYPTON** to "The Black Ring," a story for which he's truly delivered some of the finest work of his career. We have no doubt that Pete will be back drawing the Man of Steel sometime in the near future.

But in the meantime, we've gotten a sneak peek at some of Pete's art for that next DC project -- trust us, it's going to be spectacular!

In the meantime, make sure to join us next month as Paul Cornell welcomes aboard artist Kenneth Rocafort and we kick off the final act of our Doomsday story, now called "Reign of the Doomsdays"! Kenneth's art is a revelation -- check out that cover for #901 in the center of this page. Superman & Co. are in for a really rough time (four Doomsdays!), but man is it gonna look nice!

Up, up and away to the next 900 issues!

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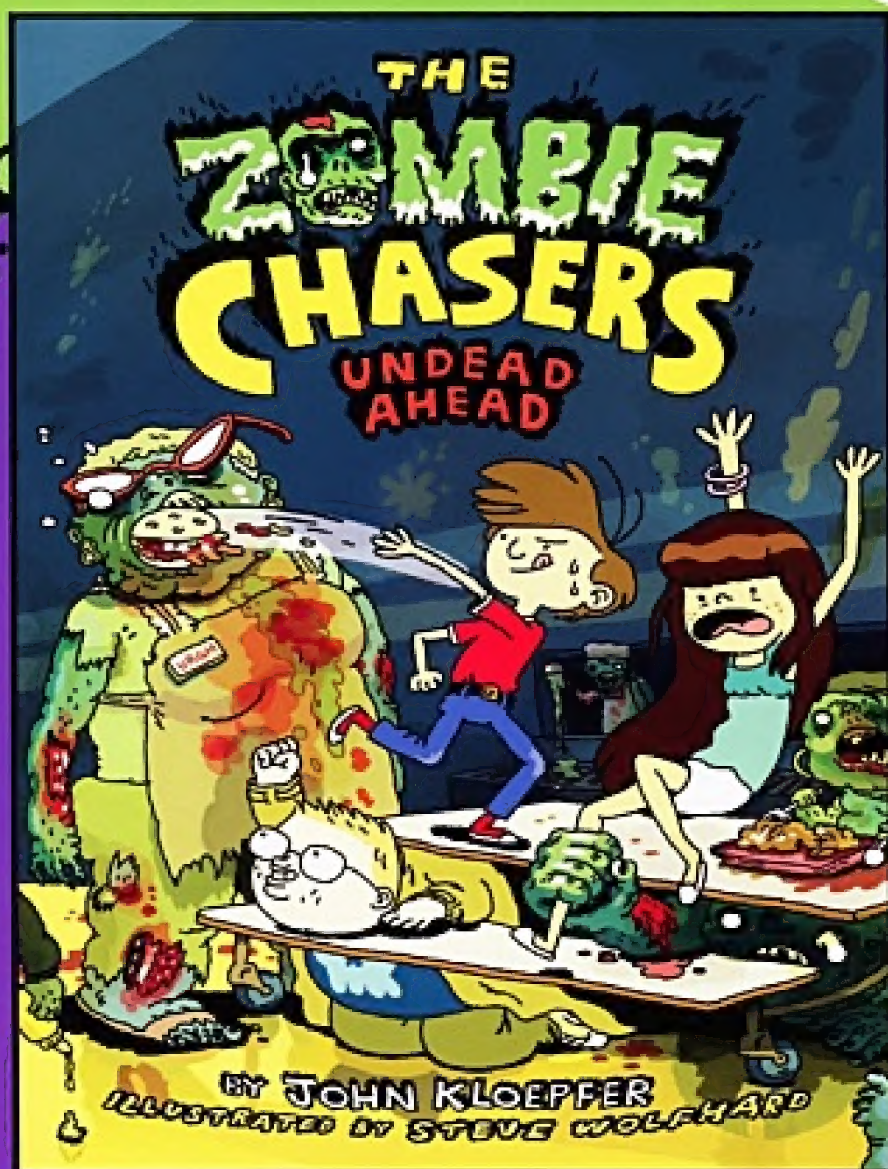


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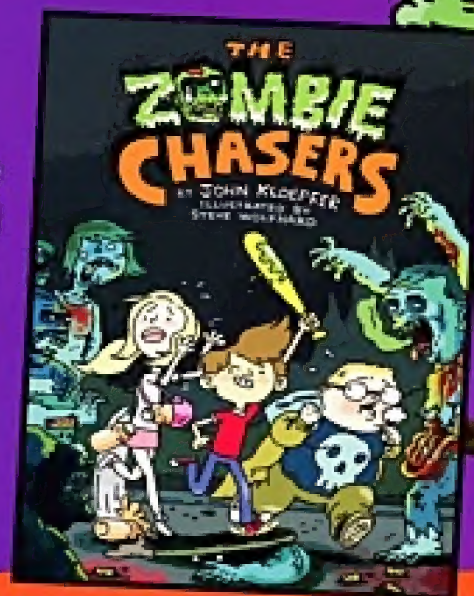


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